

*Immigration*

One last point I want to make is that unless effective changes are made in procedure, the whole thing may be illusory or delusory. Today we have quite a fair immigration act and quite good regulations. The minister and the machinery exist. But if by a simple fiat people can be and are excluded, the administrative machinery can defeat the best intentions. We propose during the scrutiny of these matters to make sure that the procedures coincide with the basic principles of elementary justice, which has not been the case in the past. We invite the co-operation of all members of the house. This part is not too clear, but we want to make sure that it becomes clear.

Finally we welcome the fact that the white paper proposes a change which we feel is essential; that is that the minister's discretion, which cannot but be exercised from time to time on political grounds, is now to be handed over to a judicial tribunal. There is a necessity for discretion, and no amount of rules can get over the human complexities of the problem, no matter how well worked out those rules may be. But the right of exercising discretion should be in some entity other than the political authority. Many of the scandals and difficulties of the past have arisen because of our failure to regard this rule.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, we welcome this white paper, and we offer the full co-operation of the members of this party, some of whom have had experience in this matter over the years. We do this in the hope that this white paper is not a stillborn child. We hope it will grow into an effective change of policy.

• (11:30 a.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic):** Mr. Speaker, our group wishes to congratulate the minister for speeding up as much as possible the tabling of that white paper.

Of course, like any other citizen, the minister must base such policies on human principles. I note that the minister stated, not only in the highlights of his plans about immigration but also in his remarks a little earlier, that the Canadian policy on immigration did not discriminate with regard to colour, race and religious beliefs.

The minister could just as easily have said that, from a humanitarian point of view, there are no frontiers, all people are equal.

[Mr. Brewin.]

However, Mr. Speaker, any organized society is governed by regulations, and frontiers may be said to represent the scars of living history, both present and past. In a society of this type there must be regulations.

And I see that government policy tends to bring down as many barriers as possible to do a service not only to the Canadian people but also to citizens from beyond our frontiers.

However, Mr. Speaker, we should not act hypocritically when I hear the minister talk about allowing a greater number of skilled immigrants. Nor should we apply any discrimination. And here perhaps I see a problem. The Department of Immigration and the government in power at any given time will be faced with a problem dealing with underdeveloped countries and it will be impossible for us to invoke hypocritically the following saying or principle: Let us serve ourselves by helping others, or by serving others. What I mean by this is that there are underdeveloped countries with which we exchange students in order to give them at least skilled labour, and very often we find that those people return to their countries and immediately apply for residence in Canada as Canadian citizens. Therefore, in the long run we are not helping those underdeveloped countries.

In our immigration policy, we must also consider the humanitarian angle. If we help them today, let us make sure that we will never lose sight of the reason why we did it. The minister will admit that, under the circumstances, a problem might arise. Of course, in such a bill it is one out of thousands which will come up. On the other hand, I am happy that, with his new immigration policy, the minister seems to realize that the people are a country's true wealth and that he will try more and more to bring human capital to Canada, which will truly develop our nation from all points of view and I hope that, in due course, he will try to keep foreign capital away, because the true wealth of a country is its human capital and its productive value. Such a policy does not mean, for instance, that we will open the door to everyone. Let us welcome suitable people and try to keep out the undesirables.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to insist on the fact—I do not see it in the white paper and, of course, I have not had time to study it thoroughly, but that will come when the bill is introduced in the house—that as much as possible the provinces should have a say in the matter, the federal parliament should not