

Immigration

means meaningful consultation, not the type of consultation this government is used to carrying on. All too often, for this administration, consultation means announcing or informing the other party of a decision after it had been made unilaterally by the federal government. I hope this will not be the case under this legislation.

As I said, I think the provinces should have a major role in decisions involving immigration, especially in the decision-making involved in matching incoming personnel with manpower or demographic needs. There has been a real need in the past for some rationalization of our immigration with respect to manpower and employment needs. I hope the government will make full use of the provincial resources available to determine areas or communities requiring available immigrant skills.

In conclusion I want to say a few words about unemployment. There are presently some one million people without work in Canada. That is a national tragedy. We are projecting an immigration flow of about 125,000 people for next year. The minister thinks the figure will be between 140,000 and 150,000, but I think that is too high in view of our present unemployment.

● (2150)

I know that immigrants bring capital to the country, I know they set up businesses; I know they have made a tremendous contribution to the development of the Canadian way of life. But I believe we must understand the fact that there are many Canadians who are unable to obtain employment, and I believe that careful consideration should be given to the level of immigration so that it does not contribute toward increasing the rate of unemployment.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Patterson: It does not make sense to permit immigrants to come to our country when there are a million people who cannot find jobs. We let them in and then say, "Sorry, boys, we do not have anything for you to do. You will have to sit on the shelf. There is nothing open for you, and therefore you will have to go on welfare". I do not think that is helping the immigrants, and it is certainly not helping Canada.

Mr. Gilbert: This must be Tory policy.

Mr. Patterson: It is Tory policy; it is sensible; it is sane. I reiterate that we would not be doing the immigrants a kindness by bringing them in if we are not able to provide them with work and to allow them to make a contribution when they come here.

I see that time is moving quickly to the zero hour. I thank all hon. members. I appreciate the opportunity to make these comments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

[Mr. Patterson.]

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, having heard the representations from all hon. members, for which I am most grateful, let me say that I think we can deal with them more adequately and in some detail in committee. There is not too much that I should say at this time. Let us get the bill into committee where we can deal with it in some detail.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

Pursuant to the order made Thursday, March 17, 1977, a recorded division stands deferred on this question until Wednesday, March 23, 1977, upon calling of orders of the day.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, it was originally understood that the motion on the report of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments would be called upon the conclusion of this part of our proceedings. We have had an all-star cast around all day. I think they could be persuaded to come back another day, as I am sure nobody would want me to take to the ice for about two minutes before ten o'clock is called. I wonder, therefore, if we could retain our place under motions rather than being shifted to government orders so that House leaders could pick another time for our deliberations to enable us to deal with this very important report.

Mr. Goodale: That is a very good suggestion, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the House leaders will want to get together shortly to select an appropriate time when this important debate can be commenced and given the scope it deserves.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): If I may explain, so that all hon. members, as well as the hon. member who has spoken, are made aware of what has occurred, there have been preliminary discussions with respect to finding an appropriate time. It has been our understanding—and I hope it is the understanding of the House—that the matter, if it is not proceeded with today,