

been made since I have been here, and, as far as I know, since the conclusion of the war.

Of course it is early as yet to attempt a detailed analysis of the statement or its effect on Canada's immigration problem, but I think one can safely say that as to the portion of the statement dealing with the immediate application of the policy—referring to the admission of relatives of Canadian citizens, and to our part in taking care of the displaced persons in Europe—there is very general agreement. Particularly is that so in reference to the part dealing with the admission of relatives of persons already resident in Canada. Indeed, if one might be permitted a criticism of that part of the statement at this stage, it would be that the statement has been too long delayed, or at least the application of the policy has been too long delayed, because after all perhaps no country in the world is in a better position than Canada to play a full part in relieving the distress and suffering of those displaced persons. We have seen evidence on the part of hon. members belonging to all parties of a very great and urgent desire that we should take our full part in relieving that distress. So I think that the criticism does apply, that it is to be regretted that the statement was not made earlier, and particularly that the policy was not worked out and put into effect perhaps as much as a year ago.

In this connection I would urge upon the Prime Minister and the government that when those officials of the immigration department, whom he indicated were being sent to Europe to investigate this matter of the displaced persons, go over there and interview these people, they do not place too narrow an interpretation upon the words "enemy aliens." Surely this should be treated as a humanitarian problem, and the only principle applied should be to assist those persons who are in need of assistance by permitting them to come to Canada on the basis of their need and their suitability, not on the basis of any narrow legal interpretation as to whether or not they are enemy aliens. Probably all hon. members have received letters from or have knowledge of Canadian citizens with relatives in Europe, in what were enemy countries or enemy occupied countries, who wish to have those relatives brought to Canada; but because at the moment we have this limitation against the admission of enemy aliens those relatives cannot be admitted. I personally know of a Canadian citizen who has relatives in Austria. Those relatives were put in a concentration camp by the Germans where at least one of them died, and they do not know whether others died there as well. He is anxious that his surviving relatives, particularly his sister

and her sons, should be permitted to come to Canada and live with him. He can provide them with accommodation and can give them support, but at the present time, though they were put in a concentration camp by the Germans, and though at least some of them died there, under present regulations the entry of those people would be delayed because they are regarded as enemy aliens. So I would ask that our immigration officials who are being sent to Europe to look into this question of displaced persons, be not confined to a narrow, technical interpretation of those words, but that they be empowered to examine every case upon its merits. If a person is deserving and desirous of coming to Canada, then he should be allowed to do so.

As I have said, in general there certainly are grounds for agreement with the first portion of the statement made yesterday, dealing with the immediate application of the government's immigration policy. As to the other portion, however, dealing with the long range policy, I feel there is cause for considerable disappointment. If we analyse that portion of the statement we find that it lays down a number of broad general principles with which we can all agree, and indeed which have been urged from time to time by members on all sides of the house. I should like to read those principles. As reported at page 2644 of *Hansard* for Thursday, May 1, the Prime Minister said:

The policy of the government is to foster the growth of the population of Canada by the encouragement of immigration. The government will seek by legislation, regulation, and vigorous administration, to ensure the careful selection and permanent settlement of such numbers of immigrants as can advantageously be absorbed in our national economy.

At page 2645 he elaborated that by saying:

Let me now speak of the government's long term programme. It is based on the conviction that Canada needs population. The government is strongly of the view that our immigration policy should be devised in a positive sense, with the definite objective, as I have already stated, of enlarging the population of the country.

With those general principles there can surely be nothing but agreement. But when it comes to the practical application of those principles, that is, the actual policy of the government with regard to immigration, there is no such definite pronouncement, and it is here, I submit, that there is cause for genuine disappointment.

I should like to read what the Prime Minister said when he dealt with the actual policy. I find that after laying down these very general principles, by which he said the government would be guided in the detailed appli-