

*Immigration Appeal Board Act*

The Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner) has recently announced a citizenship program under which his department will go forth into communities and put up storefront offices and kiosks for information. Let that too, I suggest, be a means whereby the message of warmth, friendship and welcome can be extended to these people. I suggest it should be an inter-departmental and inter-party program to finally solve this situation and to cease this increasing dilemma of "throw them out" or "be merciful", because unless the situation is cured now with this new project, we will be involved in a continuing crisis. Instead of a multicultural mosaic, it will truly be a multicultural mess, with hard feelings and antagonism between ethnic groups, with misunderstandings—and this is the real danger—between established Canadian citizens and newcomers. There will be antagonism between government and its citizens and credibility will be lost. If this program is a failure, no matter how the government might act in the future, it will be very difficult to establish ourselves once again as having a credible immigration policy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address further remarks in relation to plans for the future. The hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery) and the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert) mentioned today that the Immigration Act has not been changed since 1952. The hon. members have also spoken of the enrichment of Canada by those who have come since 1952. Most of my life has been spent in western Canada, although I am the member for York East in greater Toronto. When I was out west in times past we used to regard Toronto as a place which you would not even want to visit, let alone live in.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Arrol:** But since that time the colour, the variety and the accent on living rather than just porridge, prayers and perseverance in one's station in life, added a new dimension so that even though today many westerners and even Torontonians may be critical of their city, the rest of the world sings its praises. We criticize the new city hall, Ontario Place or whatever is done for the advancement and enhancement of Toronto, but after a while when Toronto has been praised round the world we usually get around to doing so ourselves and see that it is unique. So, Toronto today is regarded by many as not only a place one would want to visit but a place in which you would want to live if you would want to live if you wished to be in the most outstanding metropolitan centre of North America, thanks in large part to immigrants.

I should like now to speak about the dangers of immigration as it affects our large cities. I hope that in our immigration policies for the future we will remember that we are living in times unlike the days of old. When an immigrant came to Canada, at that time he went out west or to various places in Ontario and Quebec where there were wide fertile places, where only trees needed to be cut down and the ground prepared for the harvest ahead. We must keep in mind that when we speak of increased immigration what we are truly speaking of is not filling up the vast spaces any more. What we are truly saying is, let us make our big cities bigger. Let us be prepared for the consequences of further complexities, because the immigrant today heads for Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver, primarily. The main problems then to be

[Mr. Arrol.]

faced with respect to immigration are those that have to do with urban problems.

● (1250)

If we feel, as some have expressed today, that our duty is to the whole wide world, then let us remember New York and the dangers of opening one's doors completely to the disadvantaged who now form close to the majority population of that city. Let us remember that if we choose, through a points system, to accept people from other countries, that we are often drawing off the best talent of those countries and that we are not, in fact, doing those countries a favour. If on the other hand we were to take hordes of those who are unskilled and whose social conditioning is not that of the work ethic, we could be well on the way to reducing our own standard of living to the standards of those whom we sought to help. In the early years of immigration into Canada we needed people to settle our rural lands. Strong muscles, strong will and a knowledge of farming, with an adaptability to rural life in general were the main requirements. Today, the move is off the land as farms themselves become big business operations or small uneconomic family farms.

The wide open spaces that are left are mostly wide open spaces of rock, of swamp, of lake. Immigrants are not likely to want to take on Canada's north. The third of the Canadian land mass that is the Canadian Northwest Territories supports today, and supports poorly, only about 35,000 people. Plans are being made for development, the mid-Canada corridor plans and others for the north, but first let us be sure there are proper priorities in this case. Let us be sure development comes first and then the people, rather than as in the old rural situation, where there was farm land to be tilled, where the people came and did the productive work. In our modern technological age our own development should come first, and then the people should be brought in remembering at all times that a nation's first responsibility is to its own people.

In case some of those remarks might be accepted rather negatively, I would like again to emphasize the necessity of making an interdepartmental project out of what the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) is bringing forth with his amendment. As I have said, unless this program receives co-operation from the Ministry of State for Citizenship, co-operation from the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner), co-operation from all parties in this House as well from all who are now citizens, we will be doing a grave disservice to people now in the country who are afraid to come forth now but who later on will come forth and to whom, if we are to remain firm, we will have to be cruel. I hope the minister will heed the absolute necessity of at least having all notices printed in the major languages. If this project costs money, then let us all get behind him with more money than is allocated; let us take this opportunity to set a course for the future, a course which will work.

Often a member will say how tremendous he feels the current minister is, or some project is, and then he comes in with his "however's" and his "but's". I have finished with my "however's" and my "but's", and I would like to say that under the present minister much has been done. And in almost all cases where I have written on behalf—I am sure it is hundreds by now—of those who have some