

year before the senate committee, and of which few hon. members are aware. He appeared on the future immigration policy of Canada and, speaking before the senate committee on Thursday, July 25, he made remarks similar to those used by the hon. member for Moose Jaw.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: What page?

Mr. REID: I am quoting from the report of the standing committee on immigration and labour of the senate at page 207. The date is Thursday, July 25, 1946. The Hon. James Murdock, P.C., was the chairman. Mr. Mosher said:

Assuming for the moment that some immigration is desirable, the congress submits that there are two points on which there should be general agreement: (a) Racial discrimination should have no place in our immigration policy. People from some countries may, because of their background, education or customs fit into Canadian life more easily than people from some other countries, and such factors may properly be taken into account. But "race" (however defined), or nationality ought not to be considered at all.

That statement might have gone unnoticed by many of us, but later the chairman of the committee pinned him down a little bit, and it is in regard to this, of course, that I take issue with him. At page 215 the chairman said:

The Chairman: May I ask a question, Mr. Mosher, on the earlier part of your brief? You said "racial discrimination should have no place in our immigration policy." Is it fair to ask you, does that apply to the Japanese in British Columbia?

Mr. Mosher: Yes, it applies to any race, class, creed, or colour if they can be made good Canadians. Because they happen to be of Japanese origin it should not affect the immigration policy.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: You do not believe in bringing in negroes, do you?

Mr. Mosher: I believe negroes may be brought in with no more discrimination against them than any other colour, class or creed.

I wish to draw to the attention of the house a singular occurrence before that committee, because we have here the viewpoint of a man who knows nothing at all about the Asiatic problems in British Columbia, although he holds a responsible position in the country. He said he was speaking on behalf of 300,000 Canadians. He went before that committee and in effect said, "Let all who want to come in from China and Japan"—in effect, an open-door policy. I ask the hon. member for Moose Jaw, does he support a stand like that?

I now come particularly to what I mentioned a moment ago. Another labour leader takes a stand in the same committee. He,

however, gives the point of view of British Columbia. We members from British Columbia are accused of being unfair in these matters, but here is the leader of another labour party which went before that committee, and what he says shows that there is a great difference between his stand and that of the labour leader from Ontario, who knows nothing at all about the subject. The stand the leader from Ontario advocates will not affect him at all in Ontario because the problem is not here.

Mr. CROLL: We have half as many Japanese as they have in British Columbia.

Mr. REID: Ontario is very generous in that matter, of course, so long as the Japanese and Chinese all stay in British Columbia. They take an attitude comparable with that of the city of Ottawa. They did not want any of the Japs going into business here during the war. Do not interrupt too much or I may say something I should not otherwise like to say.

Mr. Bengough appeared before the committee, and I ask all hon. members to note what he said. He knew something of the situation in British Columbia, just as we do. The chairman asked him this question:

The Chairman: May I ask a question, Mr. Bengough? You state the platform of principles of your congress is "exclusion of all races that cannot be properly assimilated into the proper life of Canada"?

Hon. members will notice that he uses the same argument as we do, the unassimilability of certain races that come to this country. I continue with the chairman's question:

Just what does that mean? I asked the question of Mr. Mosher concerning the Japanese, and I should like your thought on what that platform of principles means.

Mr. Bengough: Of course we all subscribe to the principle that there should be no racial discrimination. In an international way the Japanese might be good brothers and sisters, but if they do not recommend themselves as sons-in-law or sisters-in-law then I think that is the test. If we do not accept that principle then, whether we like it or not, whether or not we admit them becomes a racial question.

The Chairman: You do hold that they cannot be properly assimilated into the national life of Canada?

Mr. Bengough: I would say that they could not, because they are a fixed and distinct race and remain that way in Canada.

Here is another labour leader, Mr. Speaker, but he is giving the point of view of the people of British Columbia, whilst others who spoke have been speaking from a point three thousand miles away in actual miles but fifty thousand miles away from the problem. We in British Columbia have been close to this problem for the past forty or fifty years.