

*Immigration Act*

Mr. Speaker, I should like to make it perfectly clear that in all deportation cases, the reasons for deportation are given. These reasons may be the lack of visa or other documentation.

Where the lack of visa or other documentation is given, and this seems to be the core of this issue, according to the hon. member the implication is that this is not good enough, in that the department must prove the individual is being prohibited under some other section of the act or regulations as well. This ignores two essential and fundamental areas in immigration as it applies to Canada and to most, if not all, other countries of the world.

The first of these areas is concerned with the necessity of conducting immigration in a fair, orderly and efficient manner. The administration of the legislation related to immigration—and this includes the admission and control of those seeking permanent admission as immigrants as well as visitors—is a much larger and more complicated job than is generally realized. This year, for example, we expect to receive more than 100,000 immigrants. Our aim is for a greater increase. We also expect that in excess of 30 million visitors will come to Canada in 1964, the United States contributing the major share of this influx.

I should like to say that I have a great deal of sympathy with the principle and the reasons for the hon. member's introduction of the bill under discussion which, in effect, proposes an amendment to the Immigration Act that would reveal the reasons for refusals by the department in granting an immigrant visa, or admission to Canada as a landed immigrant, or where deportation is ordered because of the lack of an immigrant visa. As everyone appreciates, it is the responsibility of nations to decide who shall be admitted to their territories, and to take considered measures to allow in the number and character of people who wish to enter as permanent residents.

A word about the concept of immigration to Canada, and the assignment of responsibility in the application of legislation may be of interest to hon. members, who may not be familiar with it. When the present Immigration Act was before a committee of the house prior to its passage by parliament, considerable discussion took place. The present act was passed in 1952, and replaced chapter 93 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927.

At that time, and in line with previous concepts of immigration to Canada, it was the almost unanimous view of members that immigration generally should not be a matter

of law, contestable before the courts in individual cases, but a matter basically of ministerial responsibility. The legislation itself reflects this concept to a very considerable extent. The minister is responsible for explanations of policy and for the administration of the legislation. Naturally, the minister is accountable to parliament for his conduct of the serious and onerous responsibilities placed on him. Having regard to these principles then, a visitor to Canada has no "right" to gain permanent admission to Canada and the department, through the minister, must accept responsibility for refusing permanent admission where this occurs.

The government is actually encouraging people from other countries to visit Canada. On February 21 of this year a 15 man group representing the Canadian travel industry, and sponsored by the travel bureau of the Department of Trade and Commerce, visited the British Isles, West Germany and France, for the purpose of stimulating visits to Canada. They especially appealed to hunters, fishermen and skiers, and invited European travel writers and travel agents to visit Canada.

I am informed that this travel trade mission, during the three-week tour, had arranged 20 Canadian holiday presentations and meetings and held nine press conferences, which received excellent publicity. Several members participated in television and radio interviews. Good will toward Canada was evident everywhere they went, and preparations are being made by the travel bureau to launch a comprehensive program to attract visitors from Europe for the 1967 centennial celebrations.

It is only natural that with an ever increasing stimulation for travel, with low cost air transportation available almost for every purse, it is comparatively easy for anyone to visit Canada. In these days of rapid communication and greatly increased international travel, Canada has been endeavouring to reduce to the greatest possible extent, consistent with the national interest, formalities required of visitors to this country. In this direction, within the past two years Canada has waived the non-immigrant visa requirements for visitors from all major western European countries seeking entry for three months or less.

This is a desirable step. However, in addition to increasing the traffic of genuine visitors, it also provides an opportunity for those who have been refused immigrant visas abroad for good reason, to come to Canada ostensibly as visitors and then seek to remain. The arrangement can also be used by