

Mr. MICHENER: There is a private secretary to the minister listed there, and there is none this year.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: My private secretary is both the private secretary and an executive assistant. He is so good that he has both titles.

Mr. THATCHER: I suppose there is an obvious answer, but I am still not clear and I would like the deputy minister to explain why the staff in the last five years required for administration has gone up by nine and one-half times in a period when immigration has not gone up but has actually gone down.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: Since 1949.

Mr. THATCHER: I understand that immigration this year is less than it was in 1950 and 1951.

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter that would require some study.

Mr. THATCHER: Why would you require so much more staff?

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter which requires some study and it seems to me that in looking at this the committee would be better off to have the deputy minister prepare a statement on the matter rather than to give a snap answer, because there may have been an increase in the work of the Citizenship branch, for example, or something like that.

Mr. THATCHER: There may have been a transfer between departments.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee will be quite within its rights in asking the deputy minister to examine this point and give us a considered explanation of the increase. I think that would be of more value to the committee than any snap answer.

Mr. THATCHER: That will be fine.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: The deputy minister is better qualified for that than I am because he has been deputy minister ever since this department was founded and therefore has knowledge of its operations from the beginning.

The CHAIRMAN: I am satisfied that the committee is entitled to know why there should be an increase in personnel, and I am satisfied that if the department as a whole is well administered, as I think it is, they can absolutely justify it. But we are interested in seeing if it can be justified to our satisfaction.

Mr. THATCHER: Fine.

Mr. MICHENER: We are now getting into detail, but before we do so there are one or two questions which I think can be usefully looked at before we get into the actual principles. Therefore I have in mind that this department—the Department of Indian Affairs—we should leave it for the time being. The department that deals with the admission of people to Canada who are travelling, as well as with the big problem of immigration and receiving would-be immigrants which come over to this country, as well as the citizenship and the particulars of granting citizenship certificates. I do not know how each of these functions and what part they play relatively in the whole scheme; but it seems to me that in looking at next year you should have two things in mind. I would like to ask the minister to indicate—and I will have a further word on that; the point is: you have got two plans with respect to immigrants, the people who want to come—and while Canada is interested in bringing people here, the prospective group may be very much smaller; and in fact it seems to me that a great number of the immigrants were coming over in the post-war years and we have taken advantage of that to some extent; while in my opinion we are now running into a position where we cannot get good immigrants in as great numbers. So this is a second aspect of the problem for the future, over the years. Perhaps you could indicate what your expectations are and what your policy is and then we could look more intelligently at the amount we are asked to expend to achieve the result.