

communist and fled into Germany, IRO does not regard him as their concern. What IRO does, of course, is a matter to be decided on at international conferences. That is something that I have no right to find fault with here, because we know there is great difficulty in getting things agreed to in international meetings which we might perhaps like to have agreed to there. What I do say is that what IRO does is one thing and what we do under our immigration administration is another thing. In this I entirely agree with the words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) as reported at page 2646 of *Hansard*:

With regard to the selection of immigrants, much has been said about discrimination. I wish to make it quite clear that Canada is perfectly within her rights in selecting the persons whom we regard as desirable future citizens.

I would say this, and I think that all hon. members of the house will agree with me, that among our finest immigrants have been those who came to us from the various countries of Europe, who are of German ethnic origin. We have in Canada literally hundreds of thousands of people who are of that descent. If the IRO says that those people are not of any concern to them, I think we in this country should not let that influence us in our immigration policy. If those people are within the four corners of our immigration policy, if they come within the type of persons who would otherwise be admissible, the fact that they are not under the control or aegis of IRO should not prevent us from having our immigration officials interview them and permit them entry into Canada. To have any other policy is to permit IRO, under the influence of the Soviet union in that regard, to say in effect that we shall not admit people of German ethnic origin into our country.

Let there be no mistake about the matter. I am not at the present time speaking about people who are enemy nationals, although I do say this, Mr. Speaker: the war has been over long enough now that if there had been any real desire on the part of the Soviet union to have real peace rapidly established, I think we would have had a peace conference before this and those people would no longer be enemy nationals. But be that as it may; I am not at the moment speaking of enemy nationals. I am speaking about people of German ethnic origin who may have lived in the Baltic states for example—they and their people—for generations and who are not German nationals any more than General Eisenhower is a German national—of German ethnic origin perhaps, but not German nationals. Within the British zone and the American zone there are literally thousands

[Mr. Tucker.]

of these people that IRO will have nothing to do with. They are regarded as the charge of the German people. Where their relatives in this country desire to have them admitted to Canada and they are within our immigration regulations. I do ask the government, no matter what IRO has ruled, that they be admitted. They have shown, by the type of people they are, by the kind of relatives they have here, that they would be fine citizens of this country. Where they want to come here in order to be with their relatives, I ask the government to make no discrimination in that regard, and I earnestly urge that these people be admitted to Canada just as readily as any others among those refugees and displaced persons.

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, I have been more or less shanghaied into this debate by my genial and witty friend the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank). Speaking on this measure when it was last before the house, he said—and I quote from page 327 of *Hansard*:

The members from British Columbia, with the exception of one, are unanimous in this, and that one cannot help himself. He is a very fine man, but he cannot help himself because he has to do what he is told.

Then in the very next paragraph the same speaker says:

I believe it is up to this government to give us a clear-cut decision in this matter; although I might not agree with it, I might have to agree with it.

Indicating that perhaps he is the one who has to do what he is told. But that is only incidental, Mr. Speaker.

I want to say a few words on what appears to me to be the most important feature of this bill, and that is the part of it which provides against certain discriminations which have been hitherto applied to people of the Chinese race who have been brought into this country. That I think is a most important feature of the present discussion. It is true that the whole question of immigration has been opened up, and the statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) yesterday I think was timely and will probably save a good deal of futile speculation and debate as to what the policy of the government is with respect to immigration. I think it hardly necessary to say that what we do and how we treat our citizens of Chinese origin is not a matter for British Columbia alone; it is a national matter, a matter in which the whole good name and honour of Canada is involved. While I have every sympathy for those of Chinese origin who may have suffered discrimination in Canada, and which discrimination at least in part is now being removed by