

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

hood and provide them with advice and assistance which they will need if they are to become useful, happy citizens in this country of ours. There are some voluntary agencies working in cities such as Toronto, but the ability of voluntary agencies to handle this kind of complex and expensive undertaking is very limited, and certainly limited by lack of finances.

As I said, if this government is going to continue to encourage people to come to Canada, particularly people who are new to our language, our customs and our way of life certainly I will support them in this program, because I think people from these countries I have mentioned as well as other countries should be encouraged to come here. But it seems to me that if the government are to continue to do this, as they have for a large number of years now, in fairness to them the department must establish a means so these people when they come here receive the assistance they require to enable them to become useful and happy citizens.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John):** Mr. Chairman, I want to contribute very briefly to the discussion of the citizenship and immigration estimates. I wish to take part in this discussion in order to express a few personal ideas concerning the whole problem of immigration, even if those concepts may, in some cases, seem somewhat bold.

Mr. Chairman, I think that for the federal government immigration represents a moral responsibility as well as a social one. Not only with regard to Canadian citizens but to the citizens of the whole world.

Our country has immense resources but is still sparsely populated.

Indeed, there is certainly room for a very large population, and it should be recognized that the 19 million-odd people in this country are only a very small population for such a vast territory.

On this basis, it must be recognized that we have a double responsibility, that is to maintain a buoyant economy in Canada, and also to open our doors to people from over-populated countries who are only too glad, at this time, to find some other place under the sun where life is a little easier.

But there are many problems connected with immigration, and the economic problem is not the least one, if we consider the fact that, at this time, the department of immigration is trying by various means to attract to Canada people from other countries so

[Mr. Orlikow.]

that they may work with us in the development of this country.

On the other hand, we recognize and deplore the fact that a very large proportion of our university graduates, technicians, and all those who have attended university, are crossing the border to the south, because they are attracted by better economic conditions in the United States.

We, in Canada, are trying by every means to raise the educational standards of our people. In the province of Quebec, more particularly, we see that the government is earmarking a very large part of its resources for the educational field, but, unfortunately, we find that in the end a very large proportion of our graduates cross the border and remain in the United States where they find greater advantages and greater possibilities of advancement.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Department of Citizenship and Immigration could not give special consideration to that problem because the exodus of our graduates to foreign countries constitutes an extremely serious loss for Canada which, on the other hand, is trying to attract citizens from other lands who, in most cases, do not have the technical know-how and who are not adapted to our culture and our economic and weather conditions.

I should like to call the attention of the minister on that particular point because I feel it is most important for us to make the necessary effort to keep our citizens, our brothers and our children but especially our university graduates whom we need so much and who will remain here if we can, within our economic system, offer them the same advantages as they would get in the United States, at this time, or at least comparable advantages. In my opinion, economics are closely related to the immigration policy we must follow in Canada.

Mr. Chairman, there is a particular problem I should like to bring to the attention of the minister. It may be somewhat delicate because it has to do with the previous traditional attitude of Quebec concerning immigration.

Yet, I think it is fairly easy to explain or, if you prefer, to justify the attitude French Canadians from Quebec had, in past centuries, toward the coming of immigrants.

I think we have to go back to the year 1760, when France left Canada as such and when England took over the control of the country, to understand what has been the situation of the French speaking Canadians in a Canada which was becoming an English colony.