

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

We shall probably advise you, since it can be done according to the rules, on a policy to deal with this situation.

It is utterly unbearable. Mr. Chairman, as long as I am Minister of Immigration, which will probably not be for long, but still while I am, we shall attempt to set up a policy. But once it is drawn up, we shall have to accept it.

At the present time, Canada is in danger of losing control over its immigration policy. We will need a better control than in the past. Whether it is conservative or liberal according to the wishes of the people or the House of Commons, we will have to come to a decision, but once it has been decided, we shall have to stand by it, because, as things are now, we do not know where we are going and have not known for years.

In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, we shall have to try and make adjustments.

Now, I believe that the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell) dealt a little with the criteria that should be used in setting our immigration policy in Canada.

Until now, the main criterion has been professional skill, that is the means to earn a livelihood, an educational background and also what is called sponsorship.

He said that, traditionally, the Department of Labour has been opposed to immigration. What he meant, no doubt—and he may correct me if I am wrong—is that this stems from the influence exerted by labour unions on the Department of Labour which has been rather conservative in the field of immigration.

It is a fact that labour unions are conservative in this respect.

They are conservative to the extent that there is unemployment in Canada, that is to the extent that they feel immigrants will add to the number of unemployed in Canada; well, labour unions will protect their membership first, and I can readily understand that.

But in a normal full-employment situation, I know of no labour unions in Canada that would oppose immigration, provided that there is no increase, through immigration, in the number of unemployed on the Canadian labour market.

Therefore, I believe that so long as we have a normal employment situation, there is nothing to fear from the labour movement; they will agree to immigrants coming to enrich the economic and cultural life of Canada.

[Mr. Marchand.]

Therefore, this is a matter of maintaining a proper balance, but it is obvious that Canada needs qualified labour, and emphasis should be placed on this. But, at the same time, we must realize that by accepting immigrants in Canada, we accept human beings, that is people who may have relatives—wives, sons, mothers, etc.—and that they may be interested, once they are established here, to have their relatives come too, which means that immigration cannot be exclusively selective. It must also be human.

All these factors must then be combined. I think that for the last few years, on the whole, these factors have been taken into account, but perhaps our immigration policy has not yet been properly defined.

There have been complaints that the white paper—

● (8:10 p.m.)

[English]

Complaints have been made that the white paper is not yet ready. I am going to do exactly what former ministers of immigration have done and tell the committee that I am going to try to have it ready as soon as possible.

[Translation]

There is something new.

[English]

I would also do something new. I will be in a position later this week, I hope, to table the Sedgwick report which I trust will help us solve the problem of the appeal board and the discretionary powers of the minister of immigration. I think it will be tabled this week, so this is something new. I think it will also help me to convince hon. members they should wait a little longer for the white paper.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** We will wait ten days.

**Mr. Marchand:** Ten days is a little short. The hon. member for York-Humber asked some questions about Lord Thomson. I do not know this case personally but I am informed that he voluntarily became a British subject and this is why he lost his Canadian citizenship.

[Translation]

As far as the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Vincent) is concerned, it is true that Ontario has immigration offices in England while the province of Quebec has none, neither in France nor elsewhere.