

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

their credentials. The article says that an Ontario Welfare Council discussion group was told this in Toronto. The article gives some examples to this effect and continues:

Zlata Bartol of the Family Service Association said she knows of New Canadians with double doctorates who have been forced to work in the woods. She said universities have refused admittance for qualifying or refresher courses.

● (10:00 p.m.)

I do not know whether the charges made in this article are true, but this is not the point in my participating in this adjournment debate. We have heard of many cases of this type in the past and my concern is that in view of the serious shortage of skilled professionals in Canada, the acknowledged shortage of the people who are so vital to keep our employment going, it is incumbent upon the department of manpower to look into these charges to see whether they are true. If they are true and people with special training and qualifications are being prevented from using their talents in this country, it is certainly a most serious matter and one that calls for an investigation on the part of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. I should like to quote from an editorial that appeared the following day in the *Globe and Mail*. The heading of this editorial is, "A Waste" and it says:

Immigrants with degrees from European universities are often reduced to working as dishwashers, labourers and lumberjacks—

Then it goes on to say:

According to Mr. Sametz, immigrants who go through some suffering to regain their professional status benefit by feeling a sense of achievement—

Then Mr. Sametz made this great comment:

—some people make it, but some have been broken in the process.

The editorial continues:

Good stern stuff and straight from the shoulder. What would be better for a doctor or an engineer than a few tough years in the bush? Indeed, the idea might well be extended to include the graduates of Canadian universities. No doubt that some suffering would also increase their sense of achievement.

I do not know whether you need this kind of suffering to increase the sense of achievement, but I do know there is a serious shortage of skilled people. We have asked immigrants to come to this country and I would certainly hope we would honour their credentials and enable them to perform the functions for which they were trained, not only for their own sake but for the benefit of this country. I would ask whoever is to speak

[Mr. Saltsman.]

for the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to provide an answer as to why these charges have not been investigated in the past, and also what the department intends to do about some of the charges that are being made today.

Mr. J. C. Munro (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):

Mr. Speaker, we have noted the comments of the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Saltsman). The *Globe and Mail* article to which he referred does not, of course, mention names. The effort can be made, and will be made, by the department to ascertain the names of the people who are referred to but are not named in the article. I think the hon. member and the house should bear in mind, though, that this happens in respect of a relatively small minority of immigrants who come to this country. Even if it is a limited few, I agree we should do everything possible to avoid its occurrence.

The hon. member is no doubt also aware that recognition for professional qualifications is under the jurisdiction of provincial licensing bodies. Immigration officials overseas have comprehensive information on the requirements which must be met in each province for entry into all of the major professions and skilled trades, and immigrants are given thorough counselling about the difficulties they are likely to encounter if they do not meet these requirements.

Immigration officers overseas are instructed to give this type of information, to warn of difficulties in this regard, and I do believe they sincerely undertake that task. They are also given direction to enable the immigrants to find out the chances of meeting the requirements directly from the appropriate licensing body. Again I would remind the hon. member that this falls under provincial jurisdiction.

Professional people, even those who are likely to have difficulty in obtaining recognition in Canada, can normally qualify for admission as immigrants by reason of their general education and the availability of employment opportunities for persons with training related to their professional field. Such persons cannot be refused admission, but they are informed overseas that they must expect either to have to take further training before being accepted into a professional association in Canada, or be willing to accept alternative employment outside of their profession.