

*Business of Supply*

million and India which has a population of about 450 million, will break out of their shirts and trousers to come here.

If we do not do something about the situation, this is what will happen. My suggestion is that we keep some of our boys and girls right here. If ever a country needed these people it is this country.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** The hon. member for Red Deer.

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, first I should like to commend the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher)—

**Mr. E. F. Whelan (Essex):** Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to interrupt the hon. member, but I wonder whether I might have permission to direct a question to the hon. member who just finished speaking.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. The hon. member's time has expired, unless there is unanimous consent.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

● (8:50 p.m.)

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask the hon. member a question. I believe I heard him correctly. I thought he said you had to be born in Canada to be the best class of citizen in the country. Is that what the hon. member said?

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** That was Pickersgill.

**Mr. Whicher:** I did not say that, Mr. Speaker. That sort of remark would come from the people on my left. I did not say that at all. I said that if I had my way I would open the doors and bring in a lot of people; that there were no better citizens than those born, bred and educated right here in Canada.

**Mr. Whelan:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I disagree with the hon. member because there are in my own family, including my wife, as good citizens as I am or any other Canadian that I know.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please.

**Mr. Whicher:** In that particular instance, I would say she would be a lot better, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I commend the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher) for a very thought-provoking and worth-while contribution, much more so than some I have heard him deliver in the past. I sometimes become concerned about the Department of Manpower and Immigration. I am less concerned, having listened to the hon. member, because I know that when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) realizes, as some of us have already, that perhaps the time has come for a new minister of manpower and immigration, he will also realize that he has a good resource of people from which to draw.

I suggest to the hon. member for Bruce that he should get the hon. member for Essex (Mr. Whelan) in a corner some time and teach him something about the problem we are trying to deal with tonight. I have to agree with him somewhat as I did not have the opportunity of being born in our great country, but whether we are talking about those born here or those who have chosen to come here, Canada is a great nation.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Thompson:** The situation that exists today as far as opportunities—

**Mr. Whelan:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please. The hon. member for Essex (Mr. Whelan) on a point of order.

**Mr. Whelan:** I object to what the hon. member just said. In my own family I have as in-laws a Rumanian brother-in-law, a Hungarian sister-in-law and a Finnish sister-in-law, and my wife is of German descent. Nobody has to take me aside and teach me anything about immigrants. I know what kind of great Canadians these people are, and I know also that they are as great Canadians as those who were born in this country.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to get into an argument with the hon. member for Essex. He is a good friend of mine and I can understand that once in a while he has to blow off a little steam. But there is no real argument here.

I commend the motion before the house to the hon. member for Essex and the hon. member for Bruce, because I think it points out a problem that is very real in our country at this time. I remind the hon. member for