

non-immigrant visa overseas the right to avail themselves of the appeal provision. Refugees and those making a claim of Canadian citizenship also may appeal. This narrows the field of appeal. I believe, on the basis of experience, this step is a very necessary one. The further step in respect of refugees and people claiming Canadian citizenship will impose upon these people the duty to file a declaration at the time of filing their appeal setting forth the facts upon which they rely in proceeding with their appeal.

In the past there have been many frivolous applications and it is excellent that the government has moved to tighten this particular situation. This means that in the future the appeal system will be far more rigid, and we should not become involved in the same mess we have been in for the past three or four years. The hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) outlined for the minister, and the minister pointed it out in his speech, that the right of appeal in respect of sponsored dependents continues. I am sure this is a section which should be retained, and we welcome the retention. I hope the minister will come forward with a review of the act in the very near future, either in the form of a statement on motions or a detailed study in the committee when his estimates come forward next year.

The other matter that has been pointed out to the minister concerns a total review of the act. The original act was passed in 1952 and many things have taken place between 1952 and 1973. There have been studies and recommendations. Those recommendations have yet to be implemented. Canada is really becoming a united states, not of America, but of the world. Our strength will be in the accommodation of the differences of the people whom we embrace. In so doing we must have development, understanding and harmony. I think this bill is a step forward with regard to this accomplishment. We cannot afford to have a restrictive immigration policy. We must have an expansive immigration policy, but it must be planned, regulated and reasonable. On that note, I look forward to the minister coming back and giving a detailed account concerning the good results of these provisions and an undertaking that in the near future we will have a total overhaul of the act so that we may be proud of our Immigration Act.

Mr. Ian Arrol (York East): Mr. Speaker, once before, earlier this year, the federal government set a deadline of March 31 by which date those not legally in the country were encouraged to come forward. Fewer than 10,000 of the estimated 50,000 to 200,000 made themselves known to the immigration officials. I know, and the minister knows, that if only 10,000 more of those now not registered with the immigration branch come forward I, as a Member of Parliament for the Toronto region, in the months following the 60-day amnesty will receive representations from individuals and associations on behalf of those who have not registered. Some of these will be cases deserving of great sympathy. Others will involve persons who are illegally in this country who have married. At stake will be the lives of Canadian citizens, the ones who have married them, and the children born in this country fathered by those not registered and now to be deported.

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Unless the majority of those who have now been asked to come forward do so, we will be involved in another crisis in the months and years following the 60-day amnesty. I will receive in my constituency office hundreds of letters and callers, and the minister will receive thousands of pleas from all over the land. Once again, we will be faced with a dilemma in respect of whether to deport them, as the act says, after the 60-day period. Once again, as at other times when the act has been strengthened or when an attempt has been made to strengthen it, the accusation of heartlessness will come forward. Placard-bearing people will be at the doors or inside the doors. Associations, churches, letters to the editor and heart-breaking and human accounts in the daily press will once again make it necessary that either a new amnesty be announced or that the government, whichever might be in power at that time, will be denounced and there will be turmoil. And yet, if under those circumstances another amnesty were to be granted, the credibility of not only the government of Canada but of Canada itself would be seriously questioned. The farce of anybody from anywhere being allowed to come to this country and the onus being put on the government to get rid of them would once again be played.

● (1240)

The purpose of making these remarks is not to be negative. I have what I consider to be a positive proposal to make, if in fact this new amendment to the act is to work. When the previous call for the thousands who had not registered was advertised, I, personally, saw in the subway trains the notice in English. I would suggest that coincidental with our passing of this amendment there be launched public advertisements on street cars, on buses and on subway trains in the three or four major languages of the 50,000 to 200,000 people now illegally in the country.

In addition, all of us who are interested in putting our immigration policies on a feasible footing, all of us as members and citizens, should make contact through whatever church or temple to which we may belong, should make a continuing contact with ethnic associations, with societies and clubs, and with employers whose employees are mainly recent arrivals to this country. Probably each would-be immigrant is known or related to one or more Canadian citizens, and as an act of citizenship each one of us should emphasize what the minister has emphasized over and over again, that is the positive message that most people who come forward during the 60 days after the proclamation of Bill C-197 will qualify for landed immigrant status provided they have no criminal record. I think it is important that they be reached and that the band of friendship be extended to them. In order to achieve this purpose, we must use all the resources possible in the various departments of the government.

The Minister of State in charge of multiculturalism has been criticized in certain quarters for having earmarked a large proportion of his budget for advertising. Let us use some of that money for this particular project. Let us follow through the idea we had of not only putting the advertisements in the ethnic press but also of encouraging the editors of these various publications to speak warmly as established citizens to the increasing number who could be citizens.