Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

does he assign in advance a portion of the amount he receives, or what has been the general practice in this regard?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I thought I had made that clear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Not to me.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): When an immigrant obtains a loan abroad he enters into an agreement to repay it. The method of repayment is that which I described. An agreement is reached with the employer to deduct and remit to the department each month a sum which is based partly on the income of the immigrant and partly on a minimum of I think $10 per month. We do our best to collect it in that fashion.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Let us suppose one of these men comes to this country and is supposed to start work on a farm, but fails to do so; is there any follow-up, so that the minister will know where they are?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Of course.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does the department keep any record?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Certainly.

Mr. Diefenbaker: How is that record kept?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): By the placement officer in the district to which the immigrant goes.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is all right; but I am speaking of a man who comes into the country and, while he begins to work at a certain job, leaves that job, and goes out on his own responsibility to seek employment elsewhere. Is there any record kept, or do any of these people disappear when they secure jobs elsewhere, thus breaking the contracts they made conditional upon their being admitted to this country?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Usually an employer has some information we can use with which to trace an immigrant. It is admitted that some of them have disappeared, and we have not found them. But out of the 14,000 or 15,000 the number is quite small. We continue to trace them until, as in some cases, we find they have died or, as in other cases, that they have disappeared; but there are very few in that class.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Can the minister say how many of those to whom advances were made in the amount indicated are, so far as the department is concerned, not known as to residence today?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Of the 14,000 I think there may be 200 about whom we have no information.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister has the record there, has he not?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): No.

Mr. Diefenbaker: There would not be more than 200?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Oh, there could be.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would like the minister to get that information.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I shall get it, then.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister must have it. After all, he asks that this item be passed. Surely the committee is entitled to the information. Will he say it is not more than 200? If he will—fine. But if he is just saying that it is about 200, his answer is meaningless.

Mr. Laing: How can he keep them constantly accounted for?

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): We are trying to find out how many he has not accounted for.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I regret I have not that information. We have 1,459 in default; but that is not the figure the hon. member wants.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Do I understand the minister has no record in his department as to the number, out of 14,000, who are today unaccounted for?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): It is 1,400.

Mr. Diefenbaker: And are unknown?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I did not say that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is that right, or is it not? Has the minister a record as to the number whose addresses are not now in the possession of the department by reason of the fact that the immigrants are not in employment?

Mr. Laing: Do you want them to report every night?

Mr. Diefenbaker: When the hon. member becomes a parliamentary assistant, he can answer.

Mr. Laing: What about civil rights?

Mr. Diefenbaker: And he will possibly be able to give better information, too.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has the floor.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I could get the information on that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: If the minister will table it, all right.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Certainly.