

Distribution of Goods and Services

the Grits and Tories can be proud of the results of their immigration policies during the last 100 years. Twenty one million people from Newfoundland to Vancouver represents a ridiculous situation. What we need is a plan for the development of Canada which would include inducements for skilled workers who would make good citizens. Of course, in the past we have brought in millions of people but in my opinion we have not brought enough. There are those who say that we cannot find employment for the people we have now. Most respectfully I say that if we had 40 million people instead of 20 million people we would use twice as many neckties, eyeglasses, suits, shirts, automobiles, gasoline, cigarettes and so on. Consumer demand is what makes the world go around.

It is what made the United States a great country. With ten times our population, the United States has 14 times our gross national product. People create money, and we need more people here in Canada. I intend to say something, even if I am the only Liberal member in this House of Commons who makes statements of this type. This afternoon the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen) announced a policy which would permit deserters from any army in the world to come to Ottawa and have the opportunity of Canadian citizenship. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am absolutely opposed to that policy. I am opposed to it right down the line. Do you know that in Canada today we do not have capital punishment? This law was passed in this chamber. The situation in the armed forces of Canada is different. Do you know that today a member of the Canadian armed forces can be shot for desertion? In Italy during the last world war I found myself in a terrible position. Three fellows from a certain regiment ran rather than face the enemy. It was desertion; they were deserters. A Major grabbed me and said: "We are going to try these men right now because they ran rather than face the enemy. We are going to hold a field general court martial." These three fellows were frightened and I felt sorry for them. We had the opportunity of shooting these fellows. I suppose it was not really an opportunity, but the law was such it would allow us to shoot them. The least they could get if they were convicted of desertion was two years at hard labour. For your benefit, Mr. Speaker, I may say they were given two years and shipped off to Africa in chains. That is what we, as Canadians, did to our deserters during the last world war.

[Mr. Whicher.]

• (5:50 p.m.)

I have no use for any man who will take advantage of the standard of living in his country and then desert that country when, as a result of the democratic process, he is called upon to serve that country. I make a distinction between the so-called draft dodgers and deserters. I have in mind those draft dodgers who know two months in advance they are going to be called up by United States authorities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I did not want to interrupt the hon. member because I know how strongly he feels about this matter, but I have great misgivings about this line of argument in light of the motion before us. If I allow him to continue at length in this way, I will have no option but to allow other hon. members to do the same. These remarks have nothing to do with the motion before us.

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, I will try to control myself. I was mentioning the fact that we need more people in this country, but not more of this type. We need more people to develop Canada. I have only one or two things to say before I conclude.

The minister has been listening to those of the younger generation who attend college. This is a small minority of our population, many of whom wish to tear down our universities rather than build them. Some of them think that we should let deserters from various countries come into this country and take out citizenship. We had a word during the last war which described this kind of action, and I am sure this word has been used in many other countries. That word was "yellow". Perhaps I will be the only Liberal member to stand in this house and speak in this way, but that is the way I think about these things. I will be able to go back home to my riding and look members of the Canadian Legion in the eye. I know they will not appreciate the action proposed in this house today.

I do not appreciate people of this type, but we do need more people in Canada. If we had more people we could develop this nation. We could consume more of the products produced here. The people in the United States consume 80 per cent of the wheat grown there, but we export 80 per cent of our wheat. There is no point in having a gold mine unless you have someone to do a little bit of digging. We need more diggers, more artisans, more professional people, doctors and