

We want them to come here and we do not wish to discourage them by interfering with them because they have not yet made up their minds that this is a good enough country to become a citizen of, although eventually most of them do so.

MR. MONTEITH: There is an effort being made I assume—again to use the word “sell”—to sell citizenship to these people who come into Canada from the United States?

HON. MR. PICKERSGILL: Every time I get a chance to do so I praise Mr. Howe. I think he is the best example you can find.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is one question I want to put to the minister and I would not expect him to answer it today. I read an article on refugees and displaced persons and what has been accomplished by the west German government in managing to absorb and put to work these people coming in from behind the iron curtain. They have, as I remember it, absorbed about 10 million people in the last five or six years. I understand it has been a very great problem for them. I have been wondering if we have taken full advantage of that potential pool of very fine immigrants, or whether, because they come from behind the iron curtain they have been finding so much difficulty with security clearance that it has been difficult for them to come right on to Canada. That is one of the things I hope that the minister will deal with, because if there has been this vast number coming to west Germany and they are having such great difficulty in absorbing them, it seems to me that with very little encouragement they would go right on. But I shall not ask you to answer it right now because I think it raises quite a few problems. But you might deal with it tomorrow.

I might tell the committee that on account of their reluctance to meet in the afternoon we have persuaded the Senate to let us invade their precincts and we shall meet in room 368 tomorrow morning at 10:30.