

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

Especially, must we find the means to keep our immigrants here. I am sure that the U.S. government does not need our services to attract worthy people.

Mr. Chairman, there is an alarming number of Canadians entering the United States. I did not have time to get figures because I just looked up this matter at the last minute, but I know that a large proportion of the people who live in my district emigrate to the United States.

We must find a way to keep our citizens in Canada before planning on bringing in immigrants.

If those Canadians cannot live decently in their own country, a better economic system should be set up so that they would not have to leave.

That is the point I wanted to bring to the attention of the minister and I would ask him to have an investigation carried out concerning Canadian immigration to the United States. I know that the number of French Canadians going to the United States is large enough for the minister to be concerned and to seek a solution.

[Text]

Mr. Rapp: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to prolong this debate on the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. I listened very carefully to the minister's presentation on August 14 last on the subject of immigration and I was very pleased with what he said at the time; I am not going to refer to it although I have it before me in *Hansard*.

The only matter I would like to stress at this time is this. The department seems to have had the intention of bringing to Canada immigrants who are skilled, people with brains, ability and initiative, which is all to the good. But it is my opinion and also the opinion of many others in Canada that what should be done here is to give more opportunity to our own people to obtain such skill and ability, so they could make a better contribution to our economy. Three years ago the legislation we brought in to train the unskilled, and so on, was very helpful, but at the same time I should like to stress the point that the minister consider bringing in other classes of immigrants too. I particularly have in mind unfortunate people who come from iron curtain countries. Although these people may not have the skills the minister is looking for, I think nevertheless they would make good immigrants. From time to time we see press reports to the

effect that some of these immigrants with skill and ability just use Canada as a stop-over; but I am sure these people from iron curtain countries or even from other parts of Europe, although having no particular skills, would make good immigrants.

I was very much interested in the speech of the hon. member for Peace River, who listed all the contributions made in the past toward developing and opening up our country. We still have many of these areas in Canada which need to be opened up and developed. For this reason I should like to stress very emphatically to the minister that his department also give consideration to bringing into Canada more people who, although they may not have any skill or ability, still have a place in our immigration program and in our great country.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, I should like to participate briefly in this discussion to deal with two points. First of all I should like to make some brief comments on the statement made by the minister in his opening remarks in connection with his visit to Hong Kong; and second I should like to indicate my support of the position advocated by my colleague for Vancouver East.

If I might deal with the second matter first, I noticed that in his earlier report the minister claimed a considerable improvement in the situation with regard to immigration to Canada from Hong Kong since the present government took office. I am not going to enter into any lengthy debate with him on the question as to how far those improvements have gone, but I do thoroughly agree with the contention of the hon. member of Vancouver East that there is still far too much impersonality and sheer inhumanity in the manner in which we are dealing with situations involving people and families so far as immigration from Hong Kong is concerned.

I could give some examples, as did the hon. member for Vancouver East, but I think that the particular examples which he gave were typical enough to illustrate the situation with which he and I as members of this house are confronted, so far as individual human and family situations are concerned. Therefore I will not take time to give any particular instances of my own, but I should like the minister to know that I feel the hon. member for Vancouver East was both factually correct and humanly correct when he advanced his earlier arguments.

I was very interested in the report the minister gave in his opening statement concerning