

should not invite them as second-class citizens and tell them they cannot go where they see fit. I see no objection to inducements being offered to make certain areas attractive for them to go to, such as employment opportunities, good housing, or whatever is necessary to persuade people to avoid overcrowded urban areas and go to some other areas where things are booming and where they are needed. I have no objection to that at all. I think we should do all we can to assist that. But there is a right not to be pushed around.

I have often heard the hon. member's argument in courts and in this place, that is, the argument that the opportunity to immigrate is a privilege and is by no means a right. That is only partially true. Of course, there is no general right to immigrate. Every sovereign nation has the right to say who should come to their shores from outside. But we legislate to give statutory rights to certain people and we have given certain statutory rights in the act we are now discussing and in previous acts which confirm that people qualify under those certain limited rights, and then we say to them that as permanent residents they will be treated like everyone else in Canada.

I hope we will not abandon that principle. I suspect there are grave practical difficulties in enforcing or dealing with this provision. As the hon. member no doubt knows, these terms and conditions are supposed to last for six months only. There may be some powers for extending the requirement to go to those places where they were designated to go for a short time. I think the hon. member for Provencher is quite right in saying that the regulations give certain extra points to people who are ready to fit into certain economic conditions which are satisfactory. I see no great objection to doing that, but I object to directing people to where they should live. There would be too many exceptions.

● (1650)

Let us suppose that someone comes to a place like Thompson, Manitoba, and then the plant closes down. Is that person supposed to stay there for six months if the plant closes down and there is no employment there? Let us suppose that person has a relative in Toronto. Perhaps I should not mention Toronto; but suppose that relative is very ill and might be dying. We are dealing with human beings, and I think it would be wise to extend to them the same freedoms and privileges we claim for ourselves. Indeed, it would be right to live up to the principles enunciated by the United Nations.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that

Immigration

the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Veterans Affairs—Number of widows not receiving pensions, and low level of disability pension—government action; the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay)—Royal Canadian Mounted Police—Ministerial responsibility for operation of security services—knowledge of minister of allegedly illegal activities; the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie)—The Canadian economy—Measures to stop exodus of capital to United States—Reason real estate developers will not invest in Canada.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

IMMIGRATION ACT, 1976

AMENDMENTS TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES IN IMMIGRATION POLICY

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-24, respecting immigration to Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): I would like to point out that if the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Watson) wishes to withdraw his motion, he needs the unanimous consent of the House. Does the hon. member have unanimous consent to withdraw his motion?

Mr. Watson: I request the unanimous consent of the House to withdraw my motion.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: On division.

Motion No. 51 (Mr. Watson) withdrawn.

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration) moved:

Motion No. 53.

That Bill C-24, respecting immigration to Canada, be amended in clause 121 by striking out lines 4 to 12 at page 71 and substituting the following therefor:

"for the purpose of

(a) paying the costs of establishing that they and their families may be granted admission;

(b) paying the costs of obtaining transportation to Canada and transportation from the port of arrival to the place of destination in Canada for them and their families; and

(c) paying the reasonable living expenses of such persons and their families and such other expenses as are prescribed in order to assist those persons in establishing themselves successfully in Canada."

Motion No. 53 (Mr. Cullen) agreed to.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal) moved:

Motion No. 54.