

eight o'clock. If it is the wish of the house to suspend its sitting from now until eight o'clock, the unanimous consent of the house will be required.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, it depends how long the minister will take in his remarks. If he can give us an indication that he will finish before seven o'clock, perhaps he could make his remarks now.

Mr. Marchand: I do not intend to go beyond seven o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether when the minister concludes his remarks we could by leave suspend the sitting until eight o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Perhaps we had better wait until the minister concludes his remarks before making any decision on that point.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, my first words are to thank my parliamentary secretary who introduced second reading of this bill. I should state that I am in perfect agreement with the statement he read to the house last night. I also wish to thank the house for the way hon. members have discussed the bill and the interesting suggestions that have been made.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I should like, at the outset, to put the bill now before the house into proper perspective.

Obviously, every one understands that a general immigration act is not involved here, but simply a very limited piece of legislation to establish an appeal board different in character from the one now in existence and to extend the rights provided for in the present act concerning sponsorship.

• (6:40 p.m.)

Those are the two purposes of this bill.

I have listened with particular pleasure to the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Haidasz) when he spoke of the mentally ill, of psychiatric cases. There is not the slightest doubt that I am in complete agreement with what he said. However, I believe it will be possible to deal with such cases during the discussion on the general legislation, after the white paper has been adopted by the house, not on a bill to establish a particular body.

Establishment of Immigration Appeal Board

Mr. Speaker, the bill now before the house eliminates none of the existing rights. Not only are none of the rights removed, but new ones are being added. To start with, for the first time, we will have a board which will be independent from the department.

I believe every one knows that the existing board is part of the Department of Manpower and Immigration and that it is not an independent board. In fact, its members are appointed by the minister, and as far as administration is concerned, it is entirely dependent upon the department, that is upon the minister and the deputy minister.

We are setting up a truly independent board whose members will be appointed during good pleasure and be independent from the department. The chairman will be the chief executive officer of the board; it will no longer be the minister or the deputy minister.

Mr. Speaker, the powers of this board will be more extensive than those of the previous board, in that the latter could only settle or dispose of points of law, whereas the present board will dispose not only of points of law but also of points of fact. Therefore, the board will actually have more authority and be more independent than the former one. It cannot therefore be inferred from my remarks that this legislation contains restrictions which did not exist in the former act. On the contrary, I am under the impression that this board provides guarantees that the former one could not offer under the constitution.

I have taken note of all the main points raised in the house and I think I can arrange them into groups. I am sorry, however, that I shall not be referring to each one of the hon. members who made comments in the house. The main point which struck me and which strikes all who deal with immigration concerns the human nature of immigration problems.

It is true that immigration problems, like many others within our society, are human problems. Mr. Speaker, this new and independent court will comprise two lawyers only. It may consist of more, but to show clearly that this court will not merely judge according to the law but use other criteria, most of the members of the court may be not lawyers but people from other professions. If I am to make a recommendation to the cabinet, I would make this court representative of both those directly concerned