

amendment; there is certainly good in it. I am not arguing against that.

● (4:20 p.m.)

The present minister is a very hard worker and I am sure there will be radical changes in the white paper. He is a man who has stood on his feet before and I am sure will stand on his feet again in opposition to anyone who opposes necessary changes. This man has spoken until three o'clock in the morning about what the government intends to do to improve this legislation. Let me appeal to hon. members opposite to give him a chance to see what he and his department can do. If they do not propose beneficial changes and I am in the house I will vote in opposition to the government for an amendment of the type suggested. Again I appeal to hon. gentlemen opposite to work with this man who is trying to work with them.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. member who has just concluded whether he is aware of the fact that the bill now under discussion was not referred to the committee on immigration which discussed the white paper on immigration?

Mr. Roxburgh: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of that fact.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, in view of the remarks made in the house this afternoon on third reading of Bill C-220, I feel compelled to make some observations. I do not intend to prolong the debate because I know the government and the minister want the bill passed, but I should like to state, especially to those hon. members who have made remarks concerning me, that they should read my speech made in this chamber last Monday. At that time I tried to direct the attention of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) to the representations which have been made, not only to me but also to other members of the house, to the effect that many Canadian citizens believe the present classes of relatives who can be sponsored for admission to Canada are restrictive. I paid a tribute to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration last Monday and the week before when speaking on this bill. He is making history in this country as a result of bringing in the white paper on immigration and Bill C-220.

I appreciate the views of hon. members opposite and I share with them their concern

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that, although it is entirely possible to eliminate irrational forms of discrimination from Canadian legislation, as the white paper proposes to do, certain legislation we now have makes it possible to discriminate by setting certain criteria or standards which erect barriers to admission to Canada. What I should like the minister to do this afternoon is tell hon. members again how we as members of parliament can explain the last three lines of clause 17 of Bill C-220 to assure our constituents and those Canadian citizens who make representations to us that they will not be discriminated against if they desire to bring to Canada relatives who are inadmissible according to the white paper which limits admissible relatives to unmarried nieces and nephews under age 21.

Many Canadian citizens wish to bring their next of kin to Canada. They may have no brothers, sisters, nieces or nephews alive in the old country. They may want to bring their first, second, third or fourth cousins here. These Canadian citizens should have the right to do so. If the regulations are interpreted in such a way that they are prevented from doing so, they should have the right to appeal and explain the circumstances to the appeal board. If that board turns them down, they should have recourse to the minister. At this time the minister should again explain to us how we can handle complaints from our constituents in respect of the problems I have just raised.

Let me join with the hon. member for Norfolk (Mr. Roxburgh) who is a very faithful member of the special joint committee on immigration with very strong views in respect of justice as it should be dispensed in matters of immigration. I should like to see this bill passed in order that its benefits will become available to Canadian citizens and the country as a whole. I realize that the minister is sincere in his approach and will find some way out of this dilemma. Let me say also that as a member of the committee on immigration, like the hon. member for Norfolk, I will see to it that the recommendations we bring in dealing with classes of relatives who may be sponsored will be wide enough to satisfy the representations of our constituents.

Again let me emphasize the necessity to widen the classes of relatives who can be sponsored. The people of Canada desire this change. We are here to legislate for the people rather than for certain theoreticians. In closing my remarks let me say I consider it my duty, when we bring in our recommendations in respect of the white paper and have