

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

That is a very good definition of the responsibility of the minister and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, and I recognize that it is a very heavy responsibility. They are dealing with so many intangibles and probabilities. I fully appreciate all the difficulties the department has had, but I do urge that the utmost care be exercised in the selection of immigrants. We have brought into this country a great number of good people but in addition to those, Mr. Chairman, I have met some phonies. If I were the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration they would be back where they came from overnight.

I look upon Canadian citizenship as something to be proud of. I have met some people who have come to this country who were most ungrateful for what Canada has done by permitting them to come to this country and giving them an opportunity to live the life of the average Canadian. Therefore I do urge that the strictest selection be made; that we let people come to this country who will fit into our democratic way of life and appreciate the fact that we are giving them a great opportunity by admitting them to this country, and that here they will have an opportunity to live in one of the best countries in the world.

Second, Mr. Chairman, I do urge that our immigration be planned to meet the actual needs of expanding industry and agriculture, and that every consideration be given to the concern of the trade unions with respect to the absorptive capacity of the country. Do not bring people into this country to displace Canadian workers from jobs; do not bring people into this country to displace or compete with Canadian workers for scarce housing and accommodation.

Before I conclude I do want to support what the hon. member for Nanaimo had to say with respect to Chinese immigration. I have had quite a bit to do with them. I see the minister perking up and smiling at me. I have known a good number of Chinese in the interior of British Columbia for a great many years. The Chinese population of my constituency are regarded with affection by the old-timers who have known these people for years. There is something about a Chinese citizen who has been in this country for 20, 30 or 40 years which engenders the respect of Canadian citizens. They have some qualities that are appreciated by Canadians generally, and I support fully the plea by the hon. member for Nanaimo for bringing in the relatives of these Chinese citizens who have resided in this country for a long time. These people are producers. You will never find a Chinese citizen looking for relief or assistance

of that kind. You will always find them busy producing goods or performing essential services.

This microscopic examination of Chinese bones with X-rays is in my opinion a bit overdone. What perplexes me, Mr. Chairman, is this. As far as the old age pension branch is concerned they claim you cannot tell the age of a man by X-raying his bones; that you cannot tell whether he is 70 or 75. I suggested that two or three years ago, and they said it could not be done. However, as far as the Department of Citizenship and Immigration is concerned they can tell the age of a man to within three months by X-raying his bones.

I am not blaming the officials for the departmental policies; but I do ask them not to squint too closely into that X-ray when they are looking at the bone structure of Chinese applicants. I am quite sure that in my constituency I have half a dozen who have made application to bring their sons from China, but whose applications have been rejected. From knowing these people for a long number of years I am quite certain that they are telling the truth, but there is this scientific investigation into their relatives' bone structure, and in my opinion it is not always dependable. I do urge that the minister give consideration to this question, and that where there is reasonable proof that these young people coming from China are children of the Chinese people in this country they be admitted.

I may say for the information of the committee that the Chinese in my constituency are very highly regarded. A young man who quite recently came from China to our community came to see me on a Sunday morning in a hotel in Trail. The father was so pleased about the arrival of the boy that he said he wanted to change his Chinese name and name him after me. I said: "That is quite all right, you can call him after me."

Mr. Harris: Why not me?

Mr. Herridge: So if you meet a Chinese boy in Canada who has my name you will understand the circumstances.

Mr. Fulton: Do you say there might be any mistake?

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): That is the story you want to tell.

Mr. Herridge: I do urge that the applications of these good people be granted; and when I say this I know I have the support of the people of the community. These Chinese people are regarded in the community with something bordering almost on affection, particularly those who have had