

Manpower and Immigration Council

liaison between the provincial representatives in his area, the members of parliament and the ministers, in an attempt to make them understand that closer co-operation is urgently needed between the provincial and federal governments if we want the manpower retraining policy to work smoothly.

I would have just a few words to add, Mr. Speaker. Besides, I want to be brief. However, I should like to remind the minister—I do not want to give the impression that I am blaming him, because I know the enormous work he had to do to answer my many requests—that there are in my county immigrant cases which are delayed unfairly.

I think that tonight I will do something I never did before, though I spoke of it on several occasions. I thank the minister for all the trouble he went to and for the voluminous correspondence which he sent me dealing with these problems. However, I see that all the decisions of the department concerning the cases in which I am interested, are based on the report of the local official.

He must not be just a nobody, since he signs "senior immigration officer". Surely he must rate pretty high.

Now, I am quite tempted to lay a formal charge against this senior immigration officer for failing to give his immediate attention to the reports requested by the minister and his senior officials and moreover for showing a lot of ill-will.

It is not very often that I agree with the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan), but earlier, when he spoke of this kind of red tape which has given some sort of a complex to some government employees in some departments—I think this is to be found in the immigration department—I did. They have this sort of complex which makes them feel that immigrants try to fool them. They do not realize that these people, these new immigrants, have to adapt to new conditions, to discuss or answer questions, while being handicapped, right from the start, by all these things they have to learn and get used to.

Now, I return to the case and I think it is not necessary to repeat the names in this house. The hon. minister has them on his desk. I think there are three cases outstanding. One of them is particularly sad, because the act compels this young man to six months' apprenticeship if he wants to get the diploma for which he has taken courses, but he cannot work without the permission of the department of immigration. The local senior

[Mr. Mongrain.]

officer has been troubling him with all sorts of red tape for at least seven or eight months to my knowledge.

I think this is an intolerable situation. Once again, I do not blame the minister, but I mention it because if it is multiplied by 265 counties, our productivity will be deplorable although the minister is trying to modernize and to increase the efficiency of his retraining branch of the manpower and immigration department.

The other case concerns a Frenchman and seems unexplainable. He has been granted permission to immigrate and has been starving since his arrival. He was given, from time to time, a small allowance that did not even cover his room and board. It is unthinkable in my opinion, that this young man should have been allowed to immigrate here, without first making sure that he could adapt himself to those new conditions.

Moreover, I fail to see why provincial authorities in Quebec, who always lament the fact that French-speaking immigration is below expectations, should totally neglect a French immigrant, full of good will, who met all the requirements when he came here, in brief, why there should not exist some type of welcoming committee to help him understand, as well as adapt to this new environment in which he will have to live.

I think, therefore, that the blame is to be laid at the doorstep not only of federal immigration officers, but also of those people in Quebec who have the responsibility of welcoming French-speaking immigrants and helping them adapt to this new environment with which they will have to cope.

There may also be some false propaganda in France, because we are so anxious to attract French-speaking immigrants that we dazzle these prospective immigrants with the possibility of living in a sort of little Klondyke where they will easily discover a small gold mine which will enable them to live quietly and well, whereas that is not exactly the case.

I shall limit my comments to these few words, Mr. Speaker, if only in order to give an example to the hon. members opposite who objected earlier to my intervention and to teach them to make their remarks brief and to the point.

● (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, as for the remarks of the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) on my speech, I would like to ask him whether he heard me when I said