

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

Immigration branch—

59. Administration of the Immigration Act, \$968,610.

federal government, and one on our system of justice. I feel that is another thing upon which many of our citizens are rather vague.

I have said that I do not want to take up too much time of the committee, but I would be pleased if the minister would give consideration to something along that line.

**Mr. Michener:** Early in the session we amended the act and eliminated the first declaration of intention to become a citizen. Can the minister say whether that will result in some monetary saving in administration? If so, what will be that saving?

**Mr. Harris:** The forms which would be used for the current period had already been purchased but we will not be spending money for this purpose in the future. I do not believe there will be much of a saving on this particular item until the next fiscal year.

**Mr. Montgomery:** I should like to ask the minister, in connection with item 58, about the language texts for citizenship classes, \$140,000. Can the minister give me some information as to how that money was spent?

**Mr. Harris:** I just finished answering that question for the hon. member for Greenwood. I said I would put it on the record. May I at this moment say to the hon. member for Queens that since the 1949-50 fiscal year we have spent \$62,360 on film strips, chiefly to be used in citizenship classes.

Since this reminds me of something the Leader of the Opposition said, I want to say something about the ethnic press. I am quite conscious of the support that was quite evident here today for the ethnic press who are doing their best to keep the newly arrived immigrants from embracing any doctrine that would be disadvantageous to Canada. As I have said on many occasions, we make it clear to these people when they come that the test that will be applied later on to their citizenship is their conduct in the meantime and their beliefs. Something over two years ago I met the ethnic press, and I believe the committee will realize one has to be careful in these matters, but we did set aside a sum of money for use in advertising through that press. We are continuing it this year, and will continue because the editors and publishers of those newspapers and periodicals deserve our support in refuting the false arguments that one could so easily fall into believing if he were not guided correctly.

I should like to table copies of a report, in English and in French, of the first national seminar on citizenship. I may say copies will be distributed.

Item agreed to.

**Mr. Fulton** I am not going to seek to revive the discussion we have already had, Mr. Chairman, but I could not let the matter stand without pointing out that, probably because of the pressure of time, of which the minister is now a victim as well as ourselves, the minister did not deal with the fundamental policy matters concerning immigration which were raised in the course of this discussion. The minister did not deal with the matter of the country of origin or the matter of the changing composition of present groups making up the total immigration, nor with the question of enlarging our effort in connection with immigration generally. I can only assume that is due to one of two things. Either the government has no policy in this regard or has not considered the matter in all its implications or else, as I have said is equally probably, the minister finds himself a victim of the shortage of time that is allotted for the discussion of these estimates. I believe it is regrettable that this department should be disposed of this year without any reply from the minister on these important points.

There are some questions I want to ask the minister on this item which provides for the administration to the Immigration Act. I come back to what was referred to in the course of general discussion, and that is the administrative practices in dealing with these immigration applications. If what I have to say appears critical I want to make it clear my criticism is not directed against the immigration officials in their capacity of administering this act. My criticism, although it may appear to be directed towards them, is based on the fact that there appears to be no directive or if there is any directive it is designed to direct them to deal with the matter along certain lines and to give certain answers or provide certain information which is, in my view, desirable to be provided. I do not regard that as an irresponsibility of the officials concerned; that seems to me to be a matter of policy which must, of course, come from the top. So what I am concerned with is the policy with respect to the administration of immigration.

I am aware that there are many complaints about which I alleged in a general way this morning, that when an application is rejected, it is most difficult, if not impossible, for the applicant himself or his representative—if he is represented by counsel—to obtain a clear-cut and concise statement of the reasons why the application was rejected.