

read by the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Croll), I am wondering if the Chinese residents of Canada are not being subjected to a cruel hoax. What does this press statement say?

The effect of the repeal will be to remove all discrimination against the Chinese on account of race and to bring Chinese persons under the general provisions of the Immigration Act and no longer under legislation applying exclusively to persons of Chinese origin.

From reading that statement one would infer that discrimination was to be wiped out entirely—all discrimination. What do we find upon examination of this measure? That discrimination is to remain unless, as the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) suggested this afternoon, we bring all our immigration under order in council P.C. 2115 instead of order in council P.C. 695. Because if we fail to remove this limited Chinese immigration from P.C. 2115 and bring it under P.C. 695, what have we? We have renewed discrimination: that a resident in Canada of Chinese origin must be a Canadian citizen before he can bring his wife and family into this country, whereas a Canadian resident of European origin can bring his wife and his children under eighteen years of age into this country, whether he is a citizen or not. To remove discrimination we must make the choice.

Remove discrimination? The hon. member for Lake Centre said this afternoon that, in this legislation, you are embedding discrimination in a statute. Let us remove this mask of hypocrisy from the government. We are either going to have in this house legislation which has no discrimination, or we are not going to have legislation at all. This is hypocrisy, pure and simple.

You tell the people of Canada that all discrimination is to be removed, and then you leave it, in this legislation, embedded in a statute. Worse than that, as the hon. member for Spadina just read, there is another order in council which few members in this house knew about, whereby in 1935 we agreed not to grant Canadian citizenship to Chinese nationals without the approval of the Chinese government. I wonder what Canadian citizenship is, when dependent upon the wishes of any foreign government.

I say to you that if we are to remove that discrimination—

Mr. GLEN: That order in council, P.C. 1378, will be repealed.

Mr. COLDWELL: Thank you. I am very glad to learn from the minister that P.C. 1378, to which I have just referred, will be repealed. May I say this to the minister, that I wish he would rise in his place now—

tonight—and tell the house that this bill is going to carry out the promise of the Prime Minister; that this bill is indeed going to remove all discrimination; that P.C. 2115 will likewise be repealed, and that citizens, regardless of race or creed or colour, will be placed on the same footing in this country.

A great deal has been said about the united nations organization. The united nations organization can do nothing about this. When we signed the charter we neither invited or permitted the united nations organization to interfere with our domestic affairs. But when we signed the charter we made a pledge. We pledged this country to the principle that henceforth no signatory nation would discriminate on account of race, creed or colour. I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that any Canadian delegation which goes to the united nations organization with this skeleton in its cupboard is going to be fearful throughout all the meetings of the assembly that somebody will raise this issue. May I not be a member of the delegation when a matter of this sort is raised at the united nations assembly. I have too much pride in this country of my adoption ever to wish it to be placed in a position where it will be looked upon as something of a hypocrite in international affairs, and unless we remove these disabilities, that is precisely the position in which the Canadian delegates to the united nations assembly will be placed on some future occasion.

This does not, as was said this afternoon, open the doors of immigration wide to all those who may care to come to us from wherever they may wish to come. We know that is not so. We know that of the Chinese in this country who are married and their wives across the sea there are only 22,000, and may I add that many of them are elderly men. The majority of the Chinese male residents of Canada to-day are between fifty and sixty years of age, well advanced in years. We ask the government to remove the disabilities entirely, so that these men who have come to us and have made a contribution to our country, many of them, I admit, in a very humble way, may live the life of the ordinary Canadian citizen. Many of us in this house who have spent a good many years on the prairies know perfectly well how many of us have had entertainment and sustenance from our humble Chinese residents. I myself can say that as a young man in the little town where I lived, when we were sick, it was the humble Chinese neighbour in the little local restaurant who used to come up to our shack and bring us a hot meal when we needed it.