

*Immigration*

qualified people for whom employment opportunities are increasing.

[Translation]

Where there are at present some anomalies in the range of relatives who may be sponsored, these will be corrected by broadening the range. Canadian citizens, and other people who are already here as landed immigrants, will be able to sponsor everyone they now can, and a few additional classes of relatives, with the one reservation that those who are going to be entering the labour force must have either some needed skill or the equivalent of an elementary school education.

The effect of this limitation will not be to reduce the number of sponsored immigrants entering Canada. Its purpose is only to remove from the sponsorship system its present potential for explosive growth. If that were not done, we would face the danger of admitting to Canada an ever-increasing number of people for whom our economy will offer not more but fewer employment opportunities.

The sponsorship rights of Canadian citizens will for the first time have full legal recognition, with an appeal board that can over-rule the Minister's decisions. And, of course, the new immigrant will be able to bring to Canada, without waiting for his citizenship, the members of his immediate family who are or become dependent on him.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the house will wish to explore these proposals with care and consideration. I would therefore say that I intend to propose that the white paper be referred for study to a special joint parliamentary committee which would be able to examine the issues in the depth that their importance requires.

[English]

**Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, this white paper has had a very difficult and very tardy birth. Conceived by the Prime Minister as long ago as December, 1964, and promised before the next following session of parliament, it has taken 21 months and three ministerial midwives to bring it to delivery today. Can hon. members detect anything in the minister's statement so novel or startling, any such great policy innovation, as would have required this inordinate delay? I have difficulty in believing from his statement that the white paper lives up to all the trumpeting advance notices which there have been.

[Mr. Marchand.]

Indeed, as I listened to him what I feared was that what the minister gave in the white paper with one hand he took away with the other. I want to put it straight to the minister, Mr. Speaker, that Canada needs a dynamic, positive immigration policy. A passive immigration policy is self defeating; and pious expressions, window dressing or lip service will not serve the national interest. This country must recognize the economic and social advantages, both immediate and long range, of a sustained high level immigration inflow. I am personally an unrepentant expansionist. The minister today tells us that this policy is expansionist, but then he enunciates what I suggest is a policy which will not bring any additional immigrants to this country.

Obviously a white paper of this size and this basic significance will require detailed study before comprehensive and perceptive comment may properly be made upon it. But the real test, I want to say, will come when the government introduces, as I hope it will do at the earliest possible date, a complete revision of the Immigration Act. Then we will see if actions equal professions. We on this side are anxious that immigration be sustained at a relatively high level, a uniform level, and become a permanent instrument of national economic policy designed to give stimulus to all facets of the economy. We seek to end the feast and famine, tap on tap off, approach which has been a curse in the past.

• (11:20 a.m.)

The minister has said a great deal about this policy being non-discriminatory. I am sure his objectives in that respect will receive the hearty endorsement of all members of the house, though I am compelled to say that the way this country renounces discrimination reminds me of Mark Twain swearing off smoking. He said that it was easy; he had done it scores of times. In my view the greatest milestone of real advance in non-discrimination was the new regulations which were introduced four and a half years ago by Hon. Ellen Fairclough, one of the great ministers of citizenship and immigration.

I agree with the minister that in this age there can be no tolerance of any discrimination on racial, religious, colour or national grounds. But it is not enough to end it in theory; it must be ended in practice. I point that it is not just a matter of admission. The real essence of non-discrimination is to make every immigrant feel that he can become a