

Manpower and Immigration Council

The child has nothing whatever to do with the fact that he has been born.

On the page opposite the editorial page of the *Toronto Star*, there was a letter written by Ralph Drummond of Vaughan Road, an address in the riding of York South. The letter reads in part:

In England some years ago I became the father of a little girl. I wanted to marry her mother, but she wasn't the marrying type. We did live together happily for six years, and then she deserted me and the child. A little girl needs a mother, so in my desperation I sent her to my mother and father—to be taken care of and later I followed her there.

In 1963 I came to Canada as a landed immigrant and two years later I got married here, hoping to make a new home for my daughter. Now, the Canadian immigration officers tell me she can't come to Canada because I am not regarded as her father.

This child has already had trouble enough in her life without suffering more because of a silly law like this. What can I do?

Ralph Drummond
Vaughan Rd.

● (8:40 p.m.)

The *Toronto Star*, after checking with the immigration department, advises that the immigration department does ask Victorian questions about the legitimacy of people seeking to enter the country. It goes on to say:

Immigration policy is that a child of an already landed immigrant may be admitted to join her father—if she meets the definition of a child laid down in immigration statutes. That definition is a simple one: "A child is the issue of lawful wedlock."

Mr. Drummond has told the *Star* that he was not in a state of lawful wedlock when his daughter was born; therefore for Canadian immigration purposes his daughter is not a child. Thus it follows by natural extension that Mr. Drummond is not a father. Then the *Star* article asks "See?" It goes on:

Mr. Drummond is caught in a bureaucratic nightmare; and the most interesting thing about it is that if he had been living in Ontario when his daughter was born, and he were now trying to arrange for her to join him in some other country, he would have no problem at all.

The question about illegitimacy Canadian immigration officers ask, Ontario authorities refuse to answer—and they have worked out an eminently civilized system for the protection of the child in this kind of situation.

When a child is born in Ontario the birth certificate gives only the details relating to the child: name, sex, place and date of birth. Nobody is ever going to find out about illegitimacy from that source, and that is the most practical help any such child could be given.

I was thinking about this Ralph Drummond and his little girl and how she has not been admitted to Canada, a country with

[Mr. Cowan.]

such a high moral atmosphere that it allows convicted murderers out on parole to live among us, to associate with our women and children. Yet it cannot allow a little child such as this to enter this puritanical and pristine paradise.

This reminded me of William Wordsworth, one of the greatest poets ever produced by England. When I asked a number of members of parliament here this afternoon if they could tell me what happened to William Wordsworth's daughter, who was born of a French mother, when he made a trip to France in 1792 and 1793, they expressed amazement when I questioned them. They did not know that William Wordsworth had a daughter before he was legally married in England to Mary Hutchinson many years later. William Wordsworth had a daughter by Annette Vallon, and my authority for this is a book I have in my hand which I obtained from the parliamentary library entitled "William Wordsworth and Annette Vallon".

I would ask hon. members whether they realize that under our immigration laws, which state that the child of an already landed immigrant may be admitted to join her father only if she meets the definition of a child laid down in the regulations, the issue of William Wordsworth, who was later poet laureate of Great Britain, would not have been allowed into this country. How ridiculous can we get, Mr. Speaker?

The Department of Manpower and Immigration seems unable to change these regulations. In the name of heaven I ask the minister to make such a policy change the first item of reference when this advisory council is appointed so that the little girl of Ralph Drummond of Vaughan Road is allowed to arrive in Canada and live with her father who is willing to look after her. The article in the *Star* continues:

Mr. Drummond is a decent man trying to do the best he can in a difficult situation; and it is sad that for two years he has had to thrash about in this kind of quibbling quagmire.

It is the department of immigration that the *Star* is calling a quibbling quagmire.

Twice he has appealed the immigration department's ruling, the last time with documentation from England to prove that there he is regarded as the father of his own child—and twice his appeals have been denied.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask whether the minister will refer this matter to the advisory council, as I am sure he will find good sense among the people he plans to appoint to that board.