

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

they want to become, namely law abiding, well adjusted, well integrated citizens of Canada.

I think they have done remarkably well. One can visit the new Canadian areas of any large city in Canada, whether it be Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg or Vancouver, to mention just a few, and see how well these people have become integrated. One must admit and be happy at the fact that the largest percentage of them have been able to find jobs, learn to speak English and do a better job of integrating into our society than they were able to formerly. But the fact is that for a large number of them this integration has been very difficult. In many cases it has not yet begun, and many difficulties still exist.

It seems to me that the department must have a much closer look at the kind of people who are coming here and at the problems which have arisen. I do not think the department must do this necessarily by itself, because I recognize that to a large extent these social and economic problems are the responsibility of the provinces and the cities in which these people live. But if the federal government is going to encourage people from Italy, Greece and Portugal to come here, it seems to me that it is the responsibility of the government and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to do everything possible to see that they are integrated into our way of life as quickly as possible.

To a large extent the people who have come here from countries such as Greece, Italy and Portugal are people who do not know the language, and that is understandable. They are people who have lived under governments and regimes which were not democratic. Some were fascist, some certainly autocratic; and the knowledge of these people of democratic society, how people live under our kind of government, and their knowledge of institutions like trade unions and co-operatives is, to say in the least, very limited.

There was an excellent series of articles about immigrants in Toronto which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* in September of this year, in the course of which some of the problems these people face were dealt with. The fact is that many of them are mercilessly exploited just because they do not know our language, our laws and our customs. The *Globe and Mail* listed—I am sure it was not difficult to obtain a list because any trade union organizer in any city in Canada could

provide one—dozens of cases where immigrants worked here, particularly those who did not understand English, for months if not years for wages which were less than the law of the province required.

It seems to me that to say that minimum wage laws are a provincial matter is just not good enough.

If we encourage people to come here, Mr. Chairman, to work in restaurants, laundries and the construction industry; and if there is evidence—and I suggest to the minister there is ample evidence—that they are being paid starvation wages and are being exploited, I submit it is the responsibility of the minister's department to work with the provincial authorities in order to make sure that the people who are encouraged by the government of Canada to come here receive the protection to which they are entitled.

A large number of people who have been brought to Canada are working as agricultural labourers. I know these labourers come under the jurisdiction of the provinces, and even if they did not one could not expect the minister to deal with labour problems, which come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labour. But a large number of immigrants in recent years have worked as agricultural workers in rural areas, and like other agricultural workers they do not receive the protection of the minimum wage laws, the workmen's compensation acts, hospital insurance, and so on.

I do not think it is good enough for the department to say that all agricultural workers are affected by the same kind of situation, and it is a matter which has to be dealt with by the provincial ministers of labour and the other provincial departments concerned. After all, these people came here at the urging of the federal government. They came here because the federal department established means for encouraging them to come here. It seems to me we need to establish through the Department of Citizenship and Immigration agencies and offices to protect immigrants in the transitional period until they have an opportunity to learn the language, to learn the laws of Canada and what are their rights.

It has been suggested by people who have made special studies in this field that we need new agencies, either government agencies or voluntary agencies, established in areas where these immigrants live, staffed by people fluent in the language of the immigrants to act as a liaison between the immigrants and the community. They would be able to keep track of newcomers to the neighbour-