

the important thing is to develop the resources of this country and to bring people here who will accept our way of life and who will contribute to the production of our wealth. I think it has been found that many people from European countries are assimilable in Canada. I have spoken before of the Ukrainians, Germans, Poles and other racial stocks from Europe—

Hon. Mr. HAIG: What about the Scotchman?

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: —who have come to Canada and who have made outstanding successes. Of course, honourable senators, I will at once admit that the foundation to the success that followed later was made by Scotchmen, and if my honourable friend the leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) gets any comfort out of that he is quite entitled to it.

It is known from evidence we have heard that in the displaced persons camps in the American and British zones of Germany are large numbers of people with special skills and knowledge. They are not riffraff nor are they useless people. We also know from experience that we have had in Canada already that these people could make a useful contribution if they were allowed to come to Canada. That is why I welcome the relaxation that has been apparent in recent months in the government's immigration regulations.

There are two main reasons why a broad policy in immigration is desirable. I am not among those by any means who believe that no immigrants should be brought to our shores until we have a job ready for them. That would narrow immigration altogether too much, and it is contrary to the experience of this country in the past. We have a moral obligation in this matter, particularly to those unfortunate but good, educated and law abiding people whose only crime in life is that they would not submit their freedom to nazism or communism. That was their only crime, and I submit it is a solid basis for a useful contribution to Canada's development. I think that this country, with all its vast resources, has a moral obligation in this respect.

Also, I think that Canada needs these people for another reason. We hear a great deal about taxation, and gross national production, which we shall be discussing shortly under another bill. We have seen our social services expand greatly, and our debt grow to enormous proportions, and we are conscious that the economic obligations on the governments of Canada are much greater today than anyone ever dreamed of a few years ago. If we are to maintain our national production and

increase our wealth, it can only be by the application of labour and capital to the natural wealth of the country. In the last analysis all wealth comes from old mother earth, and it is the application of labour and capital to old mother earth that produces wealth. The production of additional wealth in this country would tend to raise our gross national income and lighten the burden of taxation upon every Canadian.

Therefore from both a moral and an economic point of view we should give due consideration to this matter. Some people are concerned lest our standard of living be reduced if we admit immigrants from European countries. Well, I should like to know how a standard of living is to be defined. I know that when the Ukrainians came to this country fifty years ago they had a low standard of living, but I am equally sure that by their efforts, by the development of their farms, they have added very substantially to our yearly production and to our total national wealth; and in so doing they have contributed to raising the standard of living throughout the country. Consequently, I am not greatly worried about this thing called the standard of living. After all, we have a really high standard of living in this country. In my judgment no country, not even the United States, has a higher standard, if it is measured by any of the indices ordinarily used as a basis of comparison. But if we put too narrow a construction on these regulations with regard to standards of living and so forth, it may militate strongly against our getting many desirable immigrants.

I apologize to the house for having taken up so much of its time.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable senators, I wish to say only a few words. First I congratulate the honourable gentleman from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock), as the chairman of the committee which brought in this report. I have only one complaint to make against him—that he persistently dogged the members of the committee to attend its sittings. Because of other duties I was able to be present on only four occasions, and the number would have been less but for his constant pursuit of me. I also want in the same breath to congratulate the honourable gentleman from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) upon his untiring work as a member of this committee. I regard the committee's report as one of the two or three highlights of my twelve years in this house. The contribution made by the committee last session and again this session has been of great value to many thousands of Canadians in helping them