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Highlights of the Government's new immigration legislation

Manpower and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen tabled the Government's new immigration bill in the House of Commons on November 22 which, he said, incorporated most of the recommendations in the report of a special committee that had conducted hearings across Canada, as well as representing the views of Members of Parliament of all parties and Senators.

The bill, he said, affirmed for the first time, the fundamental objects of Canadian immigration law – family reunification, non-discrimination, concern for refugees, and the promotion of Canada's economic, social, demographic and cultural goals. In addition, provisions of the bill recognize importance of immigration to the achievement of national and regional demographic goals and the need to vitalize collaboration between the Federal Government and the provinces in the area of immigration.

Admissible classes

The bill provides for three admissible classes of immigrant:

- the family class, corresponding to

the present class of sponsored dependants, expanded to include parents of any age sponsored by Canadian citizens;

- refugees;
- other applicants, comprising immigrants selected on the basis of the selection criteria (the "points" system).

In the regulations made under the new act the existing points for the nominated class will be preserved and those relatives now eligible for nomination will receive the same level of preference they enjoy under the present regulations.

Refugees

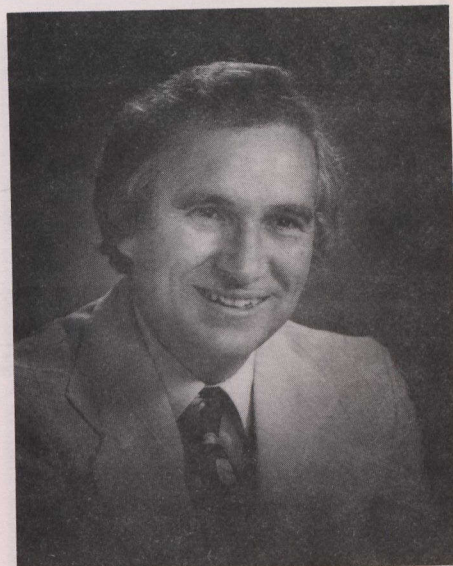
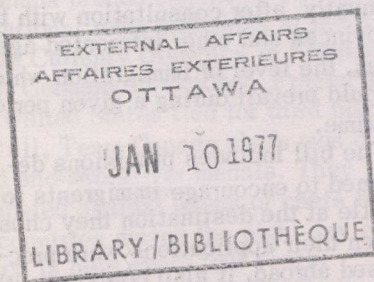
For the first time in Canadian law, the bill confirms the obligations Canada has assumed as a party to the United Nations Convention and Protocol on Refugees. It codifies new procedures to determine the status of those claiming to be refugees, and it assures that those who establish their claim are accorded the protection the Convention affords.

Provision is made for the establishment by regulation of special selection standards for refugees. It is envisaged that these would modify the criteria applicable to the usual type of immigrant to the extent that special assistance can be made available in Canada to assist in the refugees' successful establishment.

To permit the Government to respond to situations where the admission on humanitarian grounds is warranted of people who are not refugees within the Convention definition, the bill provides authority for the establishment from time to time of special admissible classes with selection criteria adjusted to meet the circumstances.

Inadmissible classes

The definition of those whose entry is prohibited is revised to reflect contemporary conditions and standards.



Immigration Minister Bud Cullen