

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

I am bitterly disappointed that the government has not yet seen fit to bring out its white paper on immigration which was promised.

Mr. Scott (Danforth): It is yellow with age.

Mr. Orlikow: The hon. member for Danforth says it will be yellow with age. That may well be the case if we continue to change ministers. That white paper was promised before some of us came here in 1962.

● (7:10 p.m.)

It is not only our immigration policy which needs to be looked at but the Immigration Act and the regulations also need to be completely revised. There has not been a year in which there has not come to light a glaring example of error, mistake and confusion caused not simply because there may be an official somewhere in the department who does not like a particular immigrant because of his colour or race but by the fact that such difficulties are inherent in the Act as it is today. I am not going to analyse the present Act and the regulations. That has been done many times by many members. The minister needs only to look over old issues of *Hansard* to find those difficulties listed.

I am not certain whether I agree with the hon. member for Carleton with respect to the minister requiring to have discretionary power. When we talk about cases we are not complaining, I certainly am not complaining and I do not think any other member is because the minister or the deputy minister has not been co-operative. In fact, I can honestly say, coming from a constituency which is largely ethnic, its people being non-English and non-French in origin, that I have handled a large number of cases since I have come here and in all of them I have had the utmost in co-operation from the minister and former ministers, the new deputy minister and former deputies. I cannot think of a single case I brought to their attention where I was certain they were wrong that they did not accede to my suggestions.

When a member of parliament has to intervene I think something has gone wrong. A member of parliament should not have to concern himself with these problems, though I do not mind doing it. But the law and regulations should clearly set out the position of the Canadian government. They should indicate that we want people generally to come to Canada, that we want qualified people to come to Canada, that we want people to come regardless of their race, colour, origin or

religion. If the government would make its position clear then most of the difficulties which have arisen and which hon. members have dealt with would disappear.

I know it is said that we do not have the kind of problem we used to have. It is said that we do not keep people out because of the colour of their skin or their ethnic background. Personally I do not think the situation is as bad as it used to be. Discrimination certainly is not as open as it used to be. In this regard may I bring to the attention of the new minister one paragraph from a speech made at the University of New Brunswick on May 20, 1965, by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Eric Williams. Here is a prime minister of one of the Commonwealth countries, one of our associates. I want the minister to listen to what the Prime Minister of Trinidad said:

Today the world has worked out the curious hybrid of juridical equality of states and racial inequality of peoples. Australia is determined to remain white; Canada eases its conscience by accepting a handful of domestic servants; the contemporary slogan is "keep Britain white", the very Britain which was built up by African and Asian labour in Africa, Asia and the West Indies. Whatever the Commonwealth may be in theory, it is in practice being increasingly tainted with a racial limitation. Viewed in historical perspective the Civil War in the United States is still raging.

That is a sad commentary for the prime minister of one of the Commonwealth countries with whom we are associated to make about Canada. It may be that is not correct, although I think it is. If it is not, then I think it is incumbent on the minister, on the department and on the government to clear up the situation, to issue a white paper and to bring in amendments to the Immigration Act and the regulations so that this kind of thing will not only disappear but so that it will become known to the people concerned that in fact our immigration policy is one which ignores questions of race, colour, and religion. I suggest to the minister that if this world is going to remain free, if this world is going to remain democratic, we must convince those people who are not white, who after all far outnumber those who are white, that we in fact believe them to be the equals of the white peoples.

There is just one more question I wish to raise very briefly. On February 16 the minister answered a series of questions I put on the order paper with regard to the problem being encountered by foreign doctors coming to Canada, particularly non-white doctors from Asia and Africa. In the answers which