

The point of view of my hon. friends of the Liberal party and my Conservative friends for that matter in British Columbia was never on any higher plane on that.

I think there is another reason, in addition to our membership in the united nations, why we should not discriminate against the peoples of the orient. The orient is awakening. It is beginning to learn the ways of the west. It is learning how to use the tools and machines of the west and is coming to realize that we westerners are not the superior people they have been led to believe, for all these years that we were. They see the feet of clay, and it would be just as well if we tried now to make amends for our arrogance, failures and insults of the past. Perhaps we may get their forgiveness, though they have a lot to forgive. As I said, that is another reason why this Chinese Immigration Act should be repealed and why we should treat the orientals, the people of the east, on the same basis as the people of other nations.

Then the hon. member for New Westminster quoted from a brief presented by the president of the Canadian Congress of Labour to the senate committee on immigration. The implication he tried to convey to this house was that Mr. Mosher, speaking for the Canadian Congress of Labour, was advocating wholesale, unrestricted immigration of all nationalities and creeds. Mr. Mosher did nothing of the kind, as I shall demonstrate by reading from the same report from which the hon. member read. Whether or not he read the whole report, I do not know, but he quoted this afternoon from the first or second page, and what I am going to quote happens to be a little further on.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): He changed his mind, did he?

Mr. MacINNIS: No. As a matter of fact the brief is very good. He differentiated between immigration proper and the admission of refugees. Perhaps, for the benefit of my hon. friends across the way, I should just read his statement on the admission of refugees, which appears on page 208 of the report:

The admission of refugees is not really part of the immigration question. Immigration is an economic question. The admission of refugees, though it has, of course, economic aspects, is primarily a humanitarian question. Canada is under an obligation to humanity to admit her due share of refugees even if it costs her something. It may actually bring her important economic benefits. But even if it does not, she must do her part.

I think most hon. members would agree with that statement. Then Mr. Mosher was asked this question by Senator Roebuck:

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: With regard to immigration, Mr. Mosher, does your brief suggest that we should have a government survey of a very extensive and thorough character of the resources that we have, and then carefully planned immigration, so balanced as not to bring in a large number of people one year and none the next, but a steady flow of well-selected immigrants, supervised, or at all events assisted, for a time after their arrival until they work themselves into our economy?

Mr. Mosher: Exactly, senator, that is the whole tenor of our brief. This idea of opening up the gates wide on the plea that we have lots of room and this greatly augmented population will help out the country is a mistake. Immigrants should be brought in only after a very careful survey and with all the related factors taken into consideration.

Does that indicate that he wants wholesale immigration of every kind of people who care to come here? It certainly does not.

Then, in answer to another question by Senator Horner, Mr. Mosher said:

I think, senator, I can agree with you very largely, but the question I would have to throw back would be this: Do you want to go back to the conditions which faced our farmers and agricultural interests in the '30's, when it was claimed by most farmers, at least in western Canada, that they were producing wheat at a loss? Do you want us to crowd the land so that the farmer will not get a fair price for the things he produces by reason of over production. It seems to me that not only for the protection of the workers but also for the protection of the farmers you have to be careful about bringing in huge numbers of people without any plan or consideration of the factors that have to be taken into account.

I do not think anything could be clearer than what Mr. Mosher and the Canadian Congress of Labour, for whom he spoke, want a reasoned immigration policy.

Mr. REID: It was clear enough.

Mr. MacINNIS: Depending upon how the country can absorb those allowed in.

I want just to touch upon one other matter. The hon. member for New Westminster spoke of the time he came to Canada, I believe it was in 1909. I do not know whether he came to Vancouver at that time.

Mr. REID: Straight to Vancouver.

Mr. MacINNIS: I had come from my native province of Prince Edward Island only a year before that. I, too, can remember that all the opposition to oriental immigration at that time came from organized labour in British Columbia.

Mr. REID: That is right.

Mr. MacINNIS: And the reason why all the opposition came from organized labour is a very simple one. Orientals—and at that time they were mostly Chinese—were taken in as cheap labour. They could live on a