

Establishment of Immigration Appeal Board

belongs, can be influenced by personal reasons and refuse to a person of good will, who would be an asset to this nation, the right to citizenship.

Even if it were just a doubt that cannot be disproved by unquestionable facts, I think the government should give the benefit of the doubt to the Canadian nation rather than to the immigrant who wants to come and live in our country.

I think the door to our country has been opened wider to immigrants. I believe that, as a rule there is no limitation for any group of people, except in very special cases. I think it would be unwise to go further than that for the time being or, at least, until the present legislation has been tried.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am looking at the situation as objectively as possible. I do not believe I am prejudiced against anyone in this house, and it sometimes happens—I said it the other day—if things come to the worst, that I correct the views expressed by some members of the New Democratic Party or the Progressive Conservative party. I do not worry at all about saying frankly, in public, that the more I listen to their arguments concerning this matter of granting to the immigrants the open door treatment, the more I find they are adopting a disturbing position and the more disquieting their arguments are, because they are in danger of damaging in the public mind the trust that should be placed in the administrators of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is not right to attack the authorities on the basis of possible discrimination. In my opinion, this amendment should be rejected and the motion for third reading of Bill No. C-220 should be passed without further delay, thus putting this legislation to the test for the next 12 months. I am sure that if discrimination exists, we will hear about it during the next 12 months, for I know we have watch-dogs of democratic rights who will surely bring the matter to our attention. I hope I am not offending anyone by using the term "watch-dogs", because this word is to be found in the Scriptures referring to silent dogs, blaming silent dogs. I am sure there will not be any silent dogs here if ever a government abused its powers in this field; hon. members will not hesitate to bring up this matter in the house, thus enabling parliament to reconsider and amend the legislation in the light of new developments.

[Mr. Mongrain.]

[English]

Mr. Jack Roxburgh (Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words at this point. The hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) made a certain statement about members on this side not speaking. I am going to speak on the subject but first I would like to correct the impression being created by hon. members on the other side of the house that it is only they who are taking a stand with respect to the proposed immigration appeal board.

Since first being elected to the house some four and a half to five years ago the committee on immigration on which I have served has been united and of one mind so far as immigration is concerned. Politics has played absolutely no part in its proceedings. But here in the House of Commons hon. members on the opposite side, including our good friend from Carleton, have hardly ever opened their mouths on the subject of the white paper simply because it was the Liberal members who were taking up all the time in presenting ideas to improve the white paper.

I notice that the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) is now doing quite a bit of talking on the subject. I think it would be very nice if the New Democratic Party would let some of its members who served on the committee carry the ball. Do those members not have the ability to carry the ball or do they intend to rely on the person who is supposed to take over the leadership of that party from the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas)? Is this the only way that the hon. member for York South can gain recognition in the House of Commons?

Hon. members opposite must acknowledge that there has never been a minister in charge of any bill who has co-operated more fully than the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) in devising a new policy, a new idea, and a white paper such as the Conservative and other previous governments never even thought of bringing into being.

Mr. Brewin: May I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Roxburgh: When I finish my remarks, Mr. Speaker. We are dealing with something new, new thoughts and new ideas introduced by the minister, his department and the committee of the house. I have to agree that from the moral aspect there is a point to the