

exceptional circumstances, in the board's view, make it reasonable to grant a special privilege to stay in Canada.

I wish particularly to draw the attention of hon. members to another important aspect of the bill. For the first time sponsorship is recognized in effect as a legal right of the Canadian citizen. The board will have authority to make a final decision on appeals from Canadian citizens who think that the department has been wrong to refuse the admission of relatives whom they wish to sponsor.

This is a new concept in Canadian immigration legislation. But the idea is not new. Sponsors, ethnic organizations and parliamentarians have for years been seeking an objective form of review of departmental decisions in sponsored cases. The minister is very happy to attempt to provide it.

The practical difficulties, however, are considerable. I am sure that they can be overcome, but it will take a little time and experience. I do not think in the meantime it would be wise to risk swamping the board with sponsorship work.

For this reason the bill proposes to leave it to be determined from time to time in the regulations exactly what classes of sponsorable relatives may be the subject of appeals by Canadian citizens. The government's intention would be to provide initially that these classes will be all those dependent relatives who, if the white paper proposals are implemented, will in future be sponsorable by immigrants before they become citizens. We will subsequently reconsider the scope of appeals in the light of experience.

Apart from these basic provisions you will observe, Mr. Speaker, many other ways in which this bill is able to assure the individual not only that justice will be done but that it will be seen to be done, and to be done with humanity and compassion. You will wish to note particularly, Mr. Speaker, that the board will render written reasons for its decision to allow or dismiss appeals. Its decisions, in so far as they concern law, become precedents; and the appellant and the department will both be entitled to appeal the decisions of the board on questions of law to the Supreme Court of Canada with leave of that court.

I should emphasize that every person ordered deported will have access to the board; the case is within the jurisdiction of the board whenever the individual claims that the weight of evidence does not justify his

Establishment of Immigration Appeal Board deportation. The existing provisions of the Immigration Act excluding certain persons from the right of appeal will be abolished. The individual will be on the same footing as the minister who may appeal to the board against a decision of a special inquiry officer not to order deportation.

I should mention another special point. Under the Immigration Act only a special inquiry officer may authorize release of a person detained during deportation proceedings. This is in connection with the matter that the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) raised the other day. It is proposed in this bill that in future people who are detained pending disposition of their appeals may apply to the board against a decision of a special inquiry officer to refuse to grant conditional release.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is one of the four routes by which we are seeking to improve immigration policy and procedures. We have begun to make changes in administrative procedures and we will be carrying these further in the light of discussion on the white paper.

In the light of that discussion also the minister hopes to make the changes in the immigration regulations that will remove all discrimination and provide a proper balance in the national interest between manpower needs and the claims of sponsorship. Fourth, as the final and basic stage, the minister hopes to introduce a full-scale revision of the Immigration Act.

Of all these steps, however, the one represented by this bill is the most urgent, because it is the one necessary to assure that the proper concepts of the rights of the individual are applied to our immigration procedures. It is a change not in technicalities, though these are important, but above all in the essential spirit of our whole approach to the problems. As such, it is the most urgent of all the reforms, and as such I hope that it may have the consideration and approval of hon. members.

Mr. Fairweather: I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary a question. Will reasons with regard to security under clause 21 be given?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I believe that it would be best if questions on clauses of the bill could be asked during the clause by clause study, after second reading of the bill.