

Supply

those recommendations, I hope the hon. member will consider supporting us, at least in that regard.

With regard to the unemployment insurance program, over the past year and a half the government has introduced a number of measures in an effort to tighten up the act through legislation. We specifically increased the number of weeks required for someone re-entering the work force. Reforms were undertaken in administrative procedures. A new record-of-employment program was started. We advertised urging employers to ensure that the forms are filled out so that we may have a more accurate record of someone's actual employment history. If someone tried to submit two or three applications, he would be detected much more easily.

We introduced computerization of unemployment registration which gives us a much greater capability to record the enormous numbers of registrations. Again, we have a better capability. A major study is being undertaken, I believe by Wood Gundy, on managerial practices in the Unemployment Insurance Commission. That is also a way of tightening up. This is balancing off the requirement to ensure fairness and equity of the program while preventing abuse. We hope to strike the right balance.

Mr. Taylor: I suggest to the minister that one of the best ways of getting this country working again is through free enterprise. With more people opening more shops or expanding their businesses, we can stop the flight of capital out of the country. The sooner we do that, the sooner we benefit this country.

There is no system like free enterprise. It gives a person an incentive to work. We have built up our standard of living under that system and we should not abandon it for any form of nationalization.

The next point I want to deal with is immigration. I have a few cases I want to deal with. One of the biggest aggravations I have found since entering federal politics is trying to get someone to answer the telephone in the Unemployment Insurance Commission. It rings and rings and rings. I thought I was the only one having that trouble. However, I have a letter here from a United Church minister who said this:

I began phoning at 8.45 a.m. and let the phone ring for 25 times. Over a period of one hour, I phoned back five times letting it ring 25 times each time.

When I finally did get through, I asked the girl whether they had a central place which could receive calls when the line is busy and relay them when a line was free. She said the government would not give them anything like that. It is very annoying. I suggest that the minister modernize the telephone system there in order to avoid this frustration. There is nothing more frustrating than listening to a telephone ring and ring and ring waiting for someone to say "hello". Even if you are later turned down, you at least have had the satisfaction of talking to someone.

I next want to deal with section 19(1)(a) of the Immigration Act. I do not like the way some people are using this. I quote from section 19:

(1) No person shall be granted admission if he is a member of any of the following classes:

(a) persons who are suffering from any disease, disorder, disability or other health impairment as a result of the nature, severity or probable duration of which, in the opinion of a medical officer concurred in by at least one other medical officer,

(i) they are or are likely to be a danger to public health or to public safety, or

(ii) their admission would cause or might reasonably be expected to cause excessive demands on health or social services;

The act should be amended or enlarged to indicate that diseases which are not infectious or contagious should not be covered under that section. I know of a case where a Canadian medical doctor in England ruled that surgery on the bowel would prevent a person getting a visa to enter Canada. I talked to medical men in Canada and they cannot see how that would be considered infectious or contagious after two years or even, under the next clause, how it might cause unreasonable expense. In the new act people are given ten years in which to pay off such expense or to take out an insurance policy. That should be sufficient to look after such a situation. I ask the minister to check that item.

● (2030)

I come now to another question, Mr. Chairman. There is a lot of unemployment in Canada and it is not at all in the small villages and towns. In the Calgary office there is a man by the name of Kuizw who cannot seem to realize that though someone may be unemployed in Calgary there are no unemployed in a place like Vulcan. If someone in Calgary is available for work, this man will not issue the necessary certificate for someone to be brought in from China for a particular job. The applicants may specify that they need someone who can speak Chinese, someone to act as a nanny for their children or that they want someone to work in a restaurant, to learn the trade and to learn the English language under capable management. One immigration officer wrote to an applicant stating that the employment of the foreign worker would have an adverse effect on the employment and career opportunities for Canadians.

The Chairman: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Mr. Taylor: I hope I would be given a chance to continue.

The Chairman: Does the minister wish to make a brief reply at this point? The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member wants to continue—

The Chairman: The hon. member may continue with the unanimous consent of the House. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Flis: Mr. Chairman, as the member of Parliament for Parkdale-High Park, I have the honour of representing many