

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

officer who knows the situation in the east as well as anyone we can get for that purpose.

When he examines a person who presents himself as the child of an applicant in Canada, he examines him having in mind certain procedures and certain knowledge which the person must have if he is a member of that family. If the immigration officer comes to the conclusion the person is not as represented then, and then only, the applicant is given the opportunity, if he wishes to take advantage of it, of having X-ray photographs taken to indicate whether or not an error has been made in Mr. Peters' judgment. It was stated this afternoon that we claim these photographs to be accurate to within three or four months. We do not. We realize that medical opinion is not completely satisfied on some points of this procedure, and that in fact there should be a variation which would allow for the ordinary uncertainties which any doctor admits exist in these things. We do—when I say "we" I must say not this department but the Department of National Health and Welfare—consider these X-rays in the light of what the ordinary doctor would expect to find by way of variation in the age group.

I do not know anything about this subject other than that I am told that an X-ray examination of the bone structure is reasonably accurate up to 19, 20, 21, 22 or 23 years of age, but probably not beyond that. It is that group with whom we are dealing. We do not examine people beyond 25 years of age, because 25 is the outside age limit. As I said before, it is never a complete bar to admission of any person. It is only an additional opportunity that he has to prove the facts which he alleges.

Nevertheless I recognize that there have been many cases where Chinese Canadian citizens feel that these examinations have not yielded the results they should. I think many hon. members in this house will bear me out when I say that we constantly review individual cases to see if there is any possibility that an error has been made, or that additional information might be obtained on which we could base a different conclusion. That is always the policy, and we shall continue at all times to accept any evidence that applicants can bring to us. We will review all cases on request. In fact I hope we can find an even better method of dealing with them than we have at the present time, although I am told it might entail considerable expense in the Hong Kong office.

I think I have covered all the specific subjects mentioned. If not, I apologize and I shall be glad to speak of them if anybody reminds me of what they are.

Mr. Fulton: I appreciate the minister dealing with the points which have been raised. There are just two matters that I should like to follow up, arising out of what he said, and I should like to start with one of the later ones, namely the position of East Indians. I do not want to quibble over the question of whether or not I was accurate, but I believe it is important to be certain as to whether or not there is differentiation or discrimination between them and other Canadians. While it is true that they can bring in their relatives within these limited categories, children under 21 and in certain circumstances 25—

Mr. Harris: May I interrupt to say that I was in error. The permission up to 25 was in the case of Chinese.

Mr. Fulton: Yes. While it is true that they can bring in their immediate relatives within these limited degrees, without reference to the quota, any other degree of relative such as cousin, nephew or grandson does come within the quota of 150, in so far as India is concerned, and Pakistan 100, or for the Indian subcontinent exclusive of Ceylon, 250 a year. On the other hand, in the case of any other Canadian citizen, even one who may recently have come here and just qualified as a Canadian citizen, my understanding is that, provided he can give the usual guarantees as to ability to support the immigrant applied for and can comply in other ways with the requirements, he can apply not only for his relatives but for his friends in his country of origin in Europe, provided again that the friend comes within the general but much broader classification of admissible persons from those countries. There is therefore a much narrower restriction on the type of persons whom Canadian citizens of East Indian origin may apply for as compared with citizens of European origin; and even those are restricted within this quota of 250. It was in that sense that I meant there was a difference bordering on discrimination.

The minister has explained some of the difficulties giving rise to the fact that the quotas—even those limited quotas—have not yet been filled. I should like to ask him whether there will be a carryover; in other words, if only 127 out of 150 were actually processed, passed and admitted to Canada in the first year—that is in 1951—will that balance of 23 carry over into the quota for 1952? And will the unfilled balance of the cumulative quota for 1952 carry over and be added to the quota of 250 for 1953? It seems to me it is only fair that this should be done particularly if, as the minister says, it was administrative difficulties which were responsible for the fact that the quota was not filled in the first year.

Mr. Harris: The answer is yes.