

I therefore ask leave to withdraw my motion.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable senators, the senator from Queen's (Hon. Mr. Sinclair) has drawn to our attention Rule 87, which deals with reports of special committees. I think it will be found from a reading of that rule that the report has followed the usual course: the committee reported some days ago; that report has been printed; it is now on the order paper, and comes today for discussion. The honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) has asked leave to withdraw his amendment to the motion for concurrence. Is it your pleasure that he be allowed to withdraw his amendment?

Hon. SENATORS: Agreed.

The amendment was withdrawn, and the motion for concurrence was agreed to, on division.

PRIVATE BILL

CONCURRENCE IN COMMONS AMENDMENT

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable senators, a message has been received from the House of Commons to return Bill O12, an Act to incorporate the Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Laborador, and to acquaint the Senate that they have passed the said bill with one amendment, to which they desire the concurrence of the Senate.

When shall this amendment be taken into consideration?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: With leave of the Senate, next sitting.

IMMIGRATION

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Senatè resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Honourable Mr. Murdock for consideration of the final report of the Standing Committee on Immigration and Labour.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR: Honourable senators, I appear to be monopolizing a good deal of time this afternoon but I shall endeavour to do penance for my sins by being as brief as possible in the remarks that I have to address to this report.

The motion to adopt this report is one that I can whole-heartedly support. I have not the slightest reservation about it.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: At this time I should like to say a word of thanks to the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) who, more than anyone else, has

carried the responsibility of assisting the chairman in guiding the committee and arranging for the appearance of witnesses.

As was indicated last evening in the remarks made by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck), a great deal of evidence was submitted to the committee. Unfortunately, in the arrangement of the business of the house, it is unavoidable that two or three committees sit at the same time, and therefore I did not have an opportunity of attending all sessions of the Committee on Immigration and Labour. However, I have read practically all the evidence that I did not hear, and I would suggest to honourable senators that they take the report home with them during the recess and read it if they have not already done so. I should also like to express commendation to the government for the relaxation of the regulations, particularly since our committee terminated its labours a year ago.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: Whether or not it was because of the deliberations on the report of the committee a year ago that the government was influenced I cannot say, but I do feel that the government is to be commended for broadening the regulations and for what I would describe as a more liberal interpretation of them.

I need not remind this house of what I have said on one or two previous occasions with regard to the opportunity this country could provide for people who still want to make their independent way in the world.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: There can be no cavilling at that statement. I am persuaded that there is urgent need for more immigration to this country for reasons which I shall briefly allude to. If we were to eliminate what we consider to be the waste regions of Canada, the habitable area in this country would probably be one-third of the total area. On that basis, on the habitable area our population, at the outside, would not be more than ten people for each square mile. Contrast that estimate with a country such as India where the population is 1,250 people to the square mile. Also contrast that situation to the one that exists in many European countries where there are anywhere from 300 to 600 or 700 people per square mile. I am among those who believe that we cannot permanently retain an estate of the value of our Canadian estate if we seek to confine our population to what might come from natural increase; and having regard to the long future,