

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

Talking of ministers of citizenship and immigration, I could not help but be struck by the speech of the hon. member for Carleton, a former minister. What he said in effect, in his speech was: "Do as I say, but don't do as I did". If there was one thing which was characteristic of immigration policy while the hon. member for Carleton was minister, and also the minister who preceded him, it was the fact that they did not clear up any of the basic problems which the department faced then and still faces now. While I have not the figures here and do not want to precipitate a long and acrimonious debate on this department, the fact is that in the years in which the former government was in power we had some of the lowest rates of immigration that we have had in the last 25 years.

This was because to a large extent, I suppose, we had large scale unemployment. Naturally when you have large scale unemployment the people who have to work for a living are sometimes not too happy about immigration. They look on immigrants as prospective competitors for jobs. The way to get the co-operation of labour is to have full employment. Then the working people do not worry about immigrants who come to Canada and compete for jobs.

The tide has turned. Immigration figures are now up but not up to the level which, I suppose, many members would like to see. I think this is partly due to the fact that in Europe and those countries to which we have traditionally looked for immigrants there has been full employment for about the last ten years. Up until this year Canada had pretty heavy unemployment while Great Britain, Germany, the Scandinavian countries, Holland and Belgium were experiencing prosperity with full employment. Therefore it has not been too easy to encourage people from those countries from which we have traditionally received the bulk of our immigrants. We have had to turn, and we have turned with some success, to countries such as Greece and Portugal for our immigrants.

I am not being critical in this regard. I think we ought to open the gates to immigrants from many countries who in past years we have seemed to discourage. But I am concerned about the fact that morally, and I think even legally, it is the responsibility of the federal government to bring people here. After all, the federal government encourages them to come to Canada. It is the federal government which has immigration offices in most countries in Europe, the

Middle East and Asia. It is the federal government which informs these people of the kind of living they can expect here. Yet having brought them here and encouraged them to come, once they arrive to a large extent they are forgotten.

I have before me an editorial which appeared in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* for February 18, 1966 entitled "Victims Of Language". It reads in part as follows:

An informal survey of Toronto secondary schools has uncovered evidence that immigrant children with language difficulties are being encouraged to leave school.

Then the editorial goes on to say a little further on:

As a consequence, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of boys and girls, many of them of university calibre, are succumbing to pressures to drop out. Whether the pressure originates in the family or in the school, whether it is overt or implicit, is immaterial. The fact remains that they are being denied the opportunities of a full education.

The editorial concludes by stating that the provincial and municipal governments have a responsibility to see that this kind of thing does not happen.

I suggest to the minister and the government that the federal government has a responsibility in this regard. I am not going to minimize the difficulties which are created for the federal government by the fact that education is the responsibility of the provinces and I am not suggesting at this time that this situation should change. But I do suggest to the minister that if in its wisdom, and I think with the agreement of the Economic Council of Canada as well as business, industry and labour, the federal government believes that we need an aggressive and active policy of immigration and that we need to encourage people from countries in which the mother tongue is neither English nor French to come to Canada, then it must somehow find ways to help the young people who accompany their parents and who are not fully conversant with the English language to overcome their language deficiency. If we do not do so then these people will become the future unemployed, the future poverty cases, the people who will inevitably become a charge on the state in generations to come.

I suggest that the minister might well look into this matter now. As one of the ways of combating poverty in the war on poverty, which so far has really been a war of words, the government might consider co-operating with the provincial governments in this respect.

[Mr. Orlikow.]