

in the Azores where, as I say, 67 per cent of our Portuguese immigrants come from, 1,000 miles away from the immigration office, two or three years ago we closed our consulate. We rent—I emphasize this—space on a yearly basis in the Azores in the Mexican honorary consul's house. An immigration officer visits the capital of the Azores a minimum of 11 days every month. Reservations are made at the principal hotel on a yearly basis. I should just like to bring once more to the attention of the minister my hope that, as we are embarking on this enlightened approach through these amendments to the Immigration Appeal Board Act, hopefully leading to a white paper on immigration and a revamping of the Immigration Act, and opening consular offices abroad, we might give very positive consideration to reopening our consulate in the Azores.

I should like now to address myself to the other half of this package which I think will be successful in cleaning up our immigration problems. On the one hand, the minister will have erected, when these amendments have been passed, a barrier against new people coming into Canada without having first obtained proper documentation. We must now turn to those people who are already in Canada, that other half to which I have referred. As I have said, we have a double operation here.

I think the minister has taken a first class step in allowing people who were here by midnight, November 30, 1972 to apply for landed immigrant status. This is a decent way for us to accept our own responsibility. I am one of the people who have been pushing for this kind of decision that will allow those caught by the November 4 deadline a fair opportunity to apply. I have about 50,000 immigrants and new Canadians in my riding. Over the past few days I have spoken to various people concerned with this problem and received an overwhelmingly favourable response. November 30 in the opinion of most, and certainly in my opinion, is a satisfactory and fair date.

I should like for a moment to direct the attention of the House to those people who were caught by the November 4 deadline. In my area of downtown Toronto they have mostly been Latin Americans. Reflect for a moment, Mr. Speaker. These are people coming from countries where the average annual income is often less than \$300. These are people who have sold everything and are making a final attempt to escape to Canada. We owe them this right to apply, and I compliment the minister for taking such a decent position in this regard.

I should like to add one note, and that is this. As I see the amendments, anyone who can prove that they were in Canada on November 30 will be able to apply for landed immigrant status, and this is very important. It means, for example, that ship jumpers will be able to apply for landed immigrant status. This is a move that I know will be well received in certain downtown areas of Toronto and Montreal. In my area, I know there are several hundred ship jumpers, some of whom have been living in Canada for up to 10 years. This legislation will give these people a once in a lifetime opportunity to regularize their situation, and again I heartily endorse this move. Certainly, I hope this step is made public. So far in this debate and in reports in the newspapers I have heard or seen no reference made to this unfortunate class of immigrant or potential immigrant in Canada.

Immigration Appeal Board Act

This is not the time for me to express my strong reservations about the way that the points system operates and is applied. In fact, I feel that the points system itself discriminates against the working man in the way it is applied, but this is a matter which will be considered during the review of the Immigration Act which we hope will be forthcoming.

At this time, I want to thank the minister for taking this attitude toward a problem that is a serious one in major urban areas, particularly in my own. I want to express my hope that the points system will be relaxed so that few people will in fact get to the appeal stage. I hope that 98 per cent of those who arrived here before November 30 obtain landed status, and I want to assure the minister of my support for the legislation.

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, approving the principle of Bill C-197 is like approving motherhood. The minister has pre-empted opposition members from saying "I told you so" because it was he who told us the condition the immigration department was in as a result of the changes that have taken place.

Bill C-197 is really phase two of the department's attempt to clear the backlog of immigration appeal board cases. In June of 1972 the hon. member for Verdun (Mr. Mackasey) was minister of manpower and immigration and it was he who set the machinery in motion to clear up about 12,000 or 13,000 of these backlogged cases. Therefore, this is phase two and most members of the House welcome the legislation which has been presented. Canada is fast becoming a microcosm of the world, embracing races and nationalities from every corner. We are quickly changing from two founding nations, and our strength in the present and in the future lies in developing understanding and harmony amongst our people. Bilingualism and biculturalism are being quickly changed to multilingualism and multiculturalism.

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The hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery) set forth the different races and nationalities he has within his constituency. I could do the same for my riding of Broadview. When I moved into the riding roughly 25 years ago it contained probably 80 per cent Anglo-Saxons. Now, that percentage has changed dramatically and we embrace many nationalities and races including Greek people, Italian people, Germans, Chinese and black people from the islands. What we really have is a mosaic of different races and nationalities. Young people within our riding are rubbing shoulders with children from different races and nationalities, appreciating their languages and cultures and enriching their lives as a result. In other words, Broadview is becoming a United Nations of the world and the young people are enjoying the experience.

This dramatic change really began in the year 1967 when two changes were brought forth by the government. The first was a change in immigration regulations allowing visitors in Canada to qualify for landed immigrant status. The second was the establishment of an Immigration Appeal Board which permitted appeals in respect of deportation orders on various grounds and shifted the discretionary power from the minister to the appeal board in