

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

Just within the last few days there has been some relaxation, but only a very small relaxation. It amounts to £250 for each dependent, not a substantial amount with the increased cost of living and the difference in the value of the pound. If there is a real desire on the part of the Canadian government to facilitate immigration from Britain then I suggest that, with the improved financial position as between the United Kingdom and Canada, since representations have not been made they should now be made formally on behalf of the government of Canada to the government of the United Kingdom for a further relaxation of the amount that may be brought here. I would ask the minister if he will undertake that such formal representations will be made.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Perhaps again we are misunderstanding each other, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member asked me a moment ago if formal representations had been made. I thought he meant at that time, in April, and I answered no. Formal representations have been made since that time, leading I take it to the announcement which was made the other day in the house at Westminster. Should there be any doubt about the situation with respect to immigration from the United Kingdom, I should like to point out that we have at the moment 35,346 British subjects who have had their applications for immigration to this country approved. This has been due in large part, I think, to the increased interest in immigration which became apparent about November, perhaps October of last year. Now, it may very well be that the number greatly increased when we announced the assisted passage scheme in late December. At any rate, all winter our officers have seen a substantial increase in the number that they have handled. We think the announcement made the other day will stimulate the numbers who will apply, although there was no sign of let-up before the announcement was made.

Nevertheless, it would appear that we are in agreement that the currency restrictions did bring about the drop in numbers applying in the late 1948, 1949 and early in 1950, but numbers applied before the present change in restrictions.

Mr. Coldwell: How many points are now available to the immigrants on the continent of Europe? At what points may immigrants be examined who wish to leave the continent of Europe? Have some new points of examination been added?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): We have officers at Athens, Berne, Brussels, Copenhagen, Hanover, Karlsruhe, Paris, Rome, Salzburg, Stockholm and the Hague.

[Mr. Drew.]

Mr. Drew: In order that we may be quite clear on what has taken place, on what date was the formal representation made to which the minister now refers, and what was the nature of that representation?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Chairman, I do not think I should disclose the representations which were made, except to say that they were to the effect that we would hope that the British government would ease the restrictions. The formal representations were made since the Secretary of State for External Affairs left a week ago.

Mr. Drew: So that the first formal representation that has been made by the government under this new department is within the past week?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman; the formal representations were made in May and were followed up by the Secretary of State for External Affairs since.

Mr. Lesage: May I ask the minister if there are any currency restrictions in France that would affect French immigrants? And are there any currency restrictions in Belgium and Holland which would affect immigrants to this country?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Yes, Mr. Chairman. The government of the Netherlands restricts the amount which can be brought out to \$200. That was \$100 up until recently but those restrictions were eased. The government of France restricts the amount to \$300, and there has been some hope recently that it may be increased to \$600. The government of Belgium restricts the amount to—and I am speaking from my recollection—\$2,000. I have not the figures with regard to that.

Mr. Lesage: The minister has said that some representations have been made to the United Kingdom government in the hope of obtaining relaxation of the currency regulations. Have some similar representations been made to the governments of France, Belgium and Holland?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): No formal representations have been made; but as I pointed out a while ago, I have repeatedly made statements that we would hope that these currency restrictions would be lifted.

Mr. Balcer: May I ask the minister if he is ready to give an answer to the question asked by the hon. member for Peterborough West with regard to the deportation of Fred Rose?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Fred Rose was convicted and sentenced to prison for an