

cash and other assets have been added to our economic stream by immigrants.

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION OF NEWCOMERS

"But look at the less mercenary aspect! The enrichment of Canadian life, the advancement of our culture! Each day I have reminders of how new arrivals, filled with enthusiasm, energy and the will to succeed have enriched our national culture, expanded our Canadian tradition in fields such as science, education, the arts - yes, even in politics....

"...I was not long on the job before I realized one thing - and it is at the very core of the administration of immigration which I intend to pursue. My task is to bring warm-hearted, human understanding to the cold print of immigration laws. The admission of immigrants, because of their economic contribution, because of factors which I might describe as economic opportunism - this cannot be the whole answer. Humanitarian and moral considerations are basic considerations to be respected, to be applied in the administration of our immigration laws. The fundamental task of any Minister of Immigration is to maintain a fair, impartial and non-discriminatory administration, coupled (and I emphasize that word), coupled with a warm and sympathetic understanding of the basic human problems involved.

SETTING TARGETS

"Dangerous perhaps it is to endeavour to say in any particular year what is a desirable level of immigration or to set long-range goals. But I believe that we must step up our objectives, set targets for ourselves. In my view, the present absorptive capacity of the Canadian economy is approximately one per cent of our population *per annum*. This, I emphasize, is a target, an objective - not necessarily to be achieved in 1963 or in 1964, but a target, an objective, which I believe is in the long-run interests of the Canadian nation, one which will provide a genuine stimulus to our whole Canadian economy.

"The 'feast-or-famine' approach to immigration, the 'tap on - tap off', will not produce the economic growth which all of us so greatly desire. In my view, a satisfactory flow of immigrants to Canada, particularly from our traditional sources, requires a consistent and regular programme of information and promotion. We need to tell our story abroad, to spell out the opportunities which exist in Canada, to assure prospective immigrants of the fact that Canadians genuinely want them as fellow citizens.

"In my view, 1961 was the low point in our immigration. 1962 showed a slight upgrade, and 1963 holds promise of very substantial improvement. Since the new Regulations came into effect last February 1, the number of applications received has increased by over 50 per cent and the trend is definitely upwards. I shall do my best to stimulate that movement.

"The new Regulations which came into effect on February 1, 1962, have now had 11 months of trial. On the whole, they are working well and have opened new avenues to prospective immigrants. They re-

move from our immigration laws the last vestiges of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour or creed. Indeed, Canada is one of the few countries of the world which can assert that it has made a genuine, an honest, effort to remove discrimination from its immigration policy. That certainly will be the policy so long as I am the Minister.

DEFINITION OF SKILLS

"Selection today is on the basis of universal and uniform criteria applied everywhere in the world. The stress is upon education, training and skills as the principal conditions of admission. One of the problems which worries me is whether our definition of skills is adequate. There are certainly many difficulties in this field. For example, it is difficult to equate training in different parts of the world with that required for Canadian employment. How do you assess qualifications and decide what is equivalent to Canadian training, experience and qualifications? That is the difficult problem. And it is not enough for a visa officer overseas merely to make a routine assessment of skills in the narrow sense. Significant also is the assessment of such intangible qualities as resourcefulness, initiative, integrity, flexibility - intangibles which cannot easily be reduced to precise assessment but which are the real qualities which make a good immigrant for Canada.

"There are those who raise doubts about immigration, who talk of 'the babel of tongues' or use other discordant phrases. To them, I would suggest they first cast the mote out of their own eye. If there be any problem, it is one created very largely by those of us who are older immigrants to Canada, by our failure to extend a sufficiently warm welcome to the newcomers....

"Newcomers do not isolate themselves into cultural and linguistic ghettos by choice. No immigrant wants to live in isolation from the rest of us, but he will cling to what he knows until he feels secure in his new surroundings. It is up to us to help in giving him that feeling of security which will bring him out of his protective shell.

NO PURE CANADIAN CULTURE

"Personally, I reject the idea of a pure Canadian culture, for that is what the expression 'babel of tongues' seems to imply. It is as repugnant as Hitler's doctrine of Nordic superiority. Today, Canada is approximately one-third Anglo-Saxon, one-third French and one-third other in ethnic background. The Canadian culture in which I believe arises from the collectivity of the cultures of all these groups, the acceptance by each of the best of the cultures of others. Ours is and must always be a pluralist culture, made richer by the variety of its components. That is why it is right to speak of unity in diversity, that is why the full development of our nationhood requires the contributions of all Canadians whatever their background or heritage. And it is on that theory and principle that our immigration policy is based.

"Earlier, I spoke of my strong personal interest in the humanitarian aspects of immigration policy and this leads me to say a word about refugee policy.