

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

refused admission. I ask the minister to look into this serious matter. It is a ridiculous situation.

There is another matter I should like to bring to the minister's attention. I believe many hon. members spend more than enough time on immigration questions concerning their constituents and I feel there are cases where this is not necessary because it is due only to the red tape, bureaucracy and arrogance of staff in various offices and branches of the department.

In many cases where people have come to a member's home or office seeking to have representations made on their behalf, not overly representations but with respect to normal applications and procedure and assistance, we have found that some of these people come back to us and say something to this effect, that when they went to the department of immigration they found that the clerk, officer or administrative official dealing with the case, when he discovered an M.P. had been approached, took an altogether different approach. They were told in effect, "Your member of parliament cannot help you. You should not have gone to him. It is too bad."

Mr. Winch: Or, "You should go to a lawyer."

Mr. Herridge: When there is no need.

Mr. Peters: If there was no money they would not help. They are a bunch of gangsters.

Mr. Herridge: Pay \$300 to get into Canada.

Mr. Winch: Arrogance is right.

Mr. Herridge: When they are already paid as members of parliament to do the job.

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Macaluso: Those are not my remarks, Mr. Chairman. I am only saying many members of parliament only wish constituents did not need to come to them to get action but many of these people come to us because they do not understand what is happening.

• (8:50 p.m.)

Many members of parliament advise these people in good faith to deal with the officials in the immigration department in their own particular communities, and when these persons come back and relate to us that a particular officer or official has been arrogant and abusive to the particular person who had the nerve to see his member of parliament, then I suggest something is wrong and the matter should be looked into very carefully by the minister.

I do not intend to take up the time of the house any longer on these matters but I do intend to deal with them at length when the estimates come forward again. However, I should like to bring this matter to the attention of the minister at this time. I echo the words of the hon. member for Skeena when he said that something must be done about the Citizenship Courts.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say just one very brief word. I could not help but listen with great attention to the remarks of the hon. member for Skeena and the member for Hamilton West concerning the procedures in the Citizenship Courts. A long step forward was made in this regard when the courts were placed in areas rather than in counties, because in one county a judge may have been good and in another county not so good. In respect of guide lines and methods in Citizenship Courts I should like to mention to the new Minister of Citizenship and Immigration that the methods and procedures used by His Honour Judge Campbell Calder in the London Citizenship Court in my area could not be carried out in a better or more practical way. They are a credit to the office he holds.

[Translation]

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Chairman, I only wish to say a few words. I shall not be as long as the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Macaluso), because I do not want to be accused of delaying the estimates of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Marchand). I also wish to congratulate him on his appointment to his new position; I hope that he will perform his duties satisfactorily.

In his opening remarks, the hon. minister said that there were 148,000 immigrants to Canada last year. He also pointed out that there were certain difficulties concerning immigrants of French origin.

Could he tell me the percentage of immigrants of French origin who came to Canada last year and to what parts of the country they were directed?

This question may involve statistics and the minister probably cannot answer me today, but I should like him to give me this information in the next few days.

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Chairman, I could give them in writing tomorrow if the hon. member so wishes.

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Chairman, I would also like to know why it is so difficult