

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

he is then known as being A.W.O.L. The army would not think of classifying these men as deserters until there had been a protracted absence from the army parades, longer than an absence of two or three days or even two or three weeks. This is termed as A.W.O.L., not desertion. The army knows that the word "desertion" carries connotations which would make the family of the soldier quiver. Certainly when we use the words "deport" or "deportation" in matters of manpower or immigration we are using words which carry evil connotations in the minds of a great majority of the public. In fact, there is a ruling in the department that once a would-be immigrant has been deported, he has tremendous barriers to overcome before this application for the status of a landed immigrant in Canada would even be considered a second time.

I should like to draw to the attention of the minister a few cases of which I have personal knowledge and ask him if he would not have these regulations reviewed by the new council of manpower and immigration, if the department itself will not change them. I am not a lawyer myself, therefore I am unable to collect from immigrants when I give them advice on how to meet the officials of the Department of Manpower and Immigration, but I have had a great deal of first hand information because I have taken immigrants before these special inquiry officers, and before the immigration appeal board. Let me quote a case in point. A few days ago we were discussing the subject of capital punishment. Some are endeavouring to prove that a policeman is more important in the scheme of things than, for instance, eight civilians such as the ones who were killed in Saskatchewan. If this law is passed, the man who killed the eight civilians might receive a life sentence, but if he had killed one policeman he would be hanged. The Solicitor General (Mr. Pennell) informed us of the number of Canadian murderers whose sentence of death had been commuted, after which they were paroled and are now moving around in Canada.

● (8:30 p.m.)

Speaking on the immigration matter, I will give hon. members a case in my own riding of York-Humber involving a European couple who have eight children, all living in Canada. The man and his wife came to Canada on a visit eight or nine years ago. When they arrived at Halifax the mother was told she could stay, but the father was told

[Mr. Cowan.]

he had to take the next boat back to the country from which he came. The mother came through to see their eight children, one of whom lives in York-Humber. She returned to her homeland in Europe and a couple of years later the mother and father, anxious to see their children, flew to Canada once more. The mother was told she could stay and visit, but the father was told he would have to return to his homeland. He returned to his homeland and the mother of the eight returned to her homeland also. Now the father who is 76 and the mother who is 74, are anxious to be landed in Canada where all eight children reside. Five of these children are Canadian citizens and the other three are waiting to fill out the five years residence in Canada before they can apply.

These two people in Europe have no other family than the eight children in Canada. The father is told he cannot come here. Our moral attitude toward this man is so high that because he was convicted of theft 37 years ago in his homeland and spent six years in the penitentiary in his homeland, he is not a fit nor proper person to associate with Canadians. Why, it might lead us down the primrose path to hell, if we had a thief wandering amongst us. This man is the father of five Canadian citizens and the father of three people who hope to be Canadian citizens. We will not let this convicted thief from Europe who did six years in the penitentiary lead us astray, but we parole convicted Canadian murderers. How ridiculous can we get? Are we going to say that paroled convicted Canadian murderers have such a high moral attitude they are fit to associate with us, but we cannot allow a convicted thief to come into this country because of the influence he would have on people residing in this dominion?

Another point I should like to have the minister refer to this new advisory committee, if the department will not take steps to have the regulations changed, concerns a man residing in York-Humber. He has resided there for the past several years. He was born in Europe and his mother and father brought him to this country when he was three years old. When they had been here seven or eight years, the father applied for Canadian citizenship and his application was granted. A year or two later his wife applied for Canadian citizenship, and it was granted to her almost automatically. I don't know why they did not apply at the same time. The boy, who as I have said was three years of age when the mother and father brought