

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

[Translation]

into Canada. I am very much concerned about this matter and would like to obtain an answer from the minister in regard to whether he has increased the number of his officers overseas in order to help Portuguese immigration.

These people have done a fine job after immigrating to this country. They have proved to be first class citizens. The industries in my riding are most anxious to see that as many Portuguese as would like to come to Canada and are qualified to do so are permitted to come here. We are hopeful that the long delays of the past, sometimes as long as two years, may be over now and that the admission of relatives and new immigrants is expedited.

One of the suggestions I should like to make to the minister, which is in harmony with the suggestions made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North, is that more attention be given to the matter of immigrants coming to this country in terms of providing some measure of protection to them as they join the work force. As a member of an immigrant family myself, perhaps it is just as well that my mother got off the boat in time or I would not have been a natural born Canadian. I am very much concerned about the exploitation of immigrants that has taken place. They have come over here and have not been informed about trade unions or about their rights as far as voting is concerned. I think this is a very important matter and the minister has a responsibility in this regard.

The minister has a responsibility to immigrants coming to this country who do not speak English or French to see that brochures and pamphlets are distributed or courses arranged for them informing them of their rights and in particular encouraging them, I hope, to join a trade union that will protect their rights regardless of their origin.

I have had numerous occasions to get in touch with the office in Waterloo and I should like to go on record at this time as indicating how thoughtful and helpful this office has been to immigrants coming into my riding and how considerate they have been in looking into any of the problems that have been brought to their attention. I would also point out that the office in Kitchener is deserving of equal praise. I should like to close, Mr. Chairman, with the hope that the minister will rise to the challenge that some of his predecessors perhaps did not meet, and I wish him well in his new job.

Mr. Vincent: Mr. Chairman, before the minister begins answering some of the questions put to him, I should also like to ask him two or three questions which he can answer at the same time as the other ones.

At the beginning of his remarks, the minister said that certain difficulties were encountered in having immigrants come to Canada, and more particularly qualified labour. Among other examples, he quoted France, a country which would be reluctant to have its qualified labour emigrate to Canada. Could the minister tell the house whether, in his opinion, our present immigration services in France are adequate and whether he has had any opportunity to discuss, with the Quebec provincial authorities, this matter of immigration from France? Could the minister also tell us whether the government of "La Belle Province" intends to set up immigration offices in France in order to look itself after immigration or still promote the immigration of certain persons considered as skilled workers?

I have a last question to put to the minister. During his discussions with provincial authorities, if he had any, did the minister emphasize the fact that if our services are divided between the federal government and the Quebec government, it might be detrimental to the interests of both governments because they would compete with each other to obtain skilled labour from other countries?

[English]

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say just a word about a matter that concerns people in my area. This problem is the same as that mentioned by the hon. member who just spoke and has to do with provinces, areas and certain industries bringing immigrants into this country for specific purposes. I hope the minister will give some consideration to the hardships worked on people brought into this country under these conditions. I am speaking particularly of the need that is apparent in the mining industry for immigrants of a special category and the persuasion being used by the immigration department and in many cases the province of Ontario—I refer to immigrants from England and Scotland in particular—by means of advertisements that in my opinion do not present a true picture and are not in keeping with the facts that exist in this country. The immigrant does not find this out until he