

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

that could not pass our immigration requirements. We have agreed to do either one of two things. We have made the same alternative offer to all the provinces. Either to have the landed immigrants come under the ordinary federal-provincial arrangement and the federal government take the exclusive responsibility for those who could not qualify or, alternatively, as in the agreement with Saskatchewan, to have the federal government pay the whole of the medical costs in the first year of all, both immigrants and non-immigrants alike, and the province take the whole responsibility thereafter.

**Mr. Green:** What is the status at the present time of Christian George Hanna, the stowaway, who was on a Norwegian freighter and about whom there has been great concern generally on the west coast?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Well, I understand, sir, that the case was heard before Mr. Justice Sullivan of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and that he reserved judgment and indicated he would probably give judgment sometime in the week of March 25.

**Mr. Green:** In the event of the judgment being unfavourable to this young man, would any time be given for representations to be made to the minister in order that the minister might consider exercising his discretion under the act?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Well, sir, I really feel that is a hypothetical question that it would be very improper for me to attempt to answer. When the learned judge gives his judgment I will consider with the officers of my department and, if necessary, with the law officers of the crown, what the appropriate steps should be after that. In the meantime, sir, I do not feel competent to give an opinion as to what should be done in this or that or the other circumstance.

**Mr. Green:** I raise the question today, Mr. Chairman, only because of the fact that something may be done in a great hurry and also because I have never known a case in which the opinion of my city has been so thoroughly behind an applicant for permission to come into Canada. I believe this young man is now working in Vancouver and is carrying on as a good Canadian citizen would do; also, he had a splendid record on the ship from which he was taken. I hope the minister will keep those facts in mind when the time comes that he has to exercise his discretion.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I do not expect I will be allowed to forget.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

**Mr. Howe (Wellington-Huron):** In view of the fact that there has been such an increase in immigrants from Hungary and Britain, is the government giving consideration to easing the regulations with regard to next-of-kin from other countries who may want to come to Canada?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I wonder, sir, whether the hon. gentleman has any particular country in mind because in nearly all cases we have to be governed by three different considerations. One is whether we have any staff in that country to deal with applicants. That is the most obvious one. The second is whether the policy of the country concerned is such that people can in fact get out, even if we do have a certain policy, and a third is whether it is possible to obtain the kind of information which it is necessary to get in order to carry out the Immigration Act as it was enacted by this parliament. Therefore, it is much easier to answer this question if I have a specific country in mind.

**Mr. Howe (Wellington-Huron):** I might say that this case was brought to my attention. These people are Armenians living in Egypt at the present time. I might say that their friends in Toronto were refused even the right to make application for these people to come out to Canada, which I thought was rather unfair.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Well, sir, I do not think anybody can be refused the right to make an application because the making of an application is surely not a matter of right but a matter of fact. If it is in fact impossible to deal with an applicant I have always thought it was rather dishonest to accept the application and to pretend we were going to deal with it. Now, we do lay down certain categories of persons from whom applications are considered, largely as a matter of getting some kind of administrative machinery that will work. In the case of Armenians, there is a great deal of sympathy for those people who have been pushed around. They have had their own country taken away from them and have been pushed about from pillar to post. I know we have endeavoured to make special arrangements wherever we could, and if the hon. gentleman can give me the details of this particular case I shall endeavour to see whether anything can properly be done.

**Miss Aitken:** If a would-be immigrant has a criminal record is he barred, or is it at the discretion of the minister?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Well, sir, there is not an absolute bar under the present act. The minister can recommend, and I do from time to time recommend to the governor in council