

*Immigration Appeal Board Act***IMMIGRATION APPEAL BOARD ACT**

## PROVISION FOR APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY MEMBERS

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration)** moved that Bill C-197, to amend the Immigration Appeal Board Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Andras** moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is the intention of the parties, as I understand it, after the discussions that were held among the House leaders, to give this bill third reading this evening. I do not intend to impose upon the goodness and charity of the House to any great extent, but I do believe that in the next five or six minutes I should relay to the House and to the people of Canada some of our thoughts at this particular time.

I have watched the face of Canada change over the past 20 or 25 years. It seems to me that this country has grown because of the influx of immigrants, regardless of their colour, race, cultural background, skill or lack of skill, education or lack of it. I believe it is through their diversity in this regard that this country is becoming greater and more significant and the envy of many countries throughout the world.

We have seen that the people who have come to Canada—and I do not say this lightly—believe in the work ethic, whereas some of us who had the privilege, the honour and the opportunity of being born here have moved away from this principle on which our country was built, in other words, the work ethic. We have seen these people come to this country because they believe that in this land they will find an opportunity to work and to contribute to the building of the nation. I myself have seen this happen in my own city of Hamilton. I will not single out any particular culture. The same is happening in the city of Montreal, in Winnipeg, in Vancouver, and throughout this entire nation. We have seen this nation reaching toward its ultimate destiny as a result of the input of many of those people who have come to this country in the past 20 years.

To get to the meat of this bill, because of the opportunities that have been offered to these immigrants, some who have come through devious means now find themselves boxed in. Apparently Bill C-197 will assist these people. I gather from the answers which the minister gave in reply to questions we put to him in committee that he will close an eye in order to assist these people, some of whom have been here for years. I refer to persons who have come to Canada through the back door, illegally. I think they are successful right now, there is no question about that. I am not referring to crooks such as Xaviera Hollander. I am referring to people who have wanted to become part of this multicultural society of ours, this Canadian mosaic. So I hope the minister, in accordance with the promises he gave us, will bend over backward—and I do not think I am taking him out of context—in order to show that he is sufficiently interested to encourage these people to come

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

forward and register in accordance with the provisions of the bill, and that compassion will be shown them.

I know that there are a few people who represent groups, particularly from the city of Montreal, who question the sincerity of the government or the minister.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Wrongly so.

**Mr. Alexander:** May I say respectfully that I think I am right. I know the minister. We do have our little differences now and again in the House and we will continue to have them, but I cannot question his sincerity in this regard having listened to the intensive questioning of the minister by all members of the House.

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I hope the minister does not let me down because then all hell will break loose, as can usually happen between he and I. Let all those who are reluctant to come forward, who have a fear of coming forward, know that we in the official opposition will keep a guarding eye on the conduct of the government and the minister in this regard. I say let them come forward and register. Let them take advantage of this last chance.

Some people were worried about the quality of the temporary members on the board, and I think rightfully so. Some were concerned that there might not be a sufficient number of lawyers who could have the skills necessary to interpret legal precedents. We were going to move an amendment, but once again the minister was able to convince the members of the standing committee that he would keep this matter in mind, that there would be sufficient number of lawyers, though he did not want to be tied down.

I hope he will see to it that there is a certain amount of legal background provided by barristers or advocates who can give of their wisdom and expertise on a very difficult matter, and at the same time possess the necessary compassion, understanding that they are dealing with human beings who will be coming before the judicial process to take advantage of this last chance.

In committee members were most concerned about how we would communicate with these people who are living underground. This is one case where all hon. members would underscore the need for massive advertising, whether by radio, television, or through the ethnic press. Leaders of cultural groups and community leaders will have to be involved. There will have to be massive advertisements, something similar to that which occurred when the minister was lowering the boom on November 3 last with respect to the necessity for work permits after January 1.

This is one bill with which we do not have many problems. Everybody is agreeing with everybody else. I would ask the minister to get involved with the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) and convince him of the necessity of such advertising. I notice the minister nodding his head in the affirmative. I hope he can give some indication that this will be a priority.

Once these people are brought out from underground we will have to concentrate on providing immigrant services. In this respect we have been totally lacking in trying to