

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

I outlined in the house three days ago, as reported at page 4172 of *Hansard*, what other countries are doing to build houses not only for people who come to their shores but for people who have lived there all their lives. If the government would follow the pattern set by other countries—and it is a very simple pattern—then we could double the house construction which is being carried on at the present time. That would make it possible for the people of this country, and for people whom this government brought to this country a few years ago, to find places to live at a reasonable rent.

I would like now to deal with another matter, Mr. Chairman, which is very closely related to immigration. It deals with a statement made two days ago by Mr. Jean Desy, director of the international service of the C.B.C., whose job it is to tell people all over the world what an attractive place Canada is to live in. He is supposed to be our prime salesman; yet, when speaking to the Richelieu Club in Quebec on Wednesday, and according to a prepared statement given out in advance to the Canadian press and obviously intended to be given very great publicity, Mr. Desy made the following statement, and I quote his words as they appear both in the prepared text and in their exact reproduction by the newspaper *Le Canada* on April 23.

An hon. Member: What paper?

Mr. Hees: *Le Canada*. Mr. Desy said:

The two principal ethnic groups in Canada have natural, historical and constitutional rights to which new Canadians of other origin have no claim.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that his statement is calculated to antagonize not only people who have recently come to this country from Europe and other parts of the world, but also those who have lived here for many years. Many of the people to whom Mr. Desy refers as having no natural, historical or constitutional rights have become very distinguished citizens of this country, and are among the best citizens we have.

I think it is a very strange statement indeed to come from a government employee whose job it is to speak to people all over the world telling them what an attractive place Canada is. I believe that by this statement he has said that Canada is a country in which we have two classes of citizens. I do not believe that is the kind of statement that is calculated to make people want to come to Canada.

Mr. Harris: Does the hon. member not know that the English and French languages are guaranteed by the constitution, and that no other languages are?

Mr. Hees: Yes, I do, and so does every other citizen of Canada. I think that that is not the sort of thing that has to be repeated to get people to come to this country. Those of us who live here know that we have our language rights, and that is something we take for granted. I do not think a statement like this—which was intended to be given great publicity, or it would not have been given out as a prepared statement to the Canadian press with the obvious objective of getting nation-wide publicity—is the kind of statement calculated to make people who do not speak either English or French feel very much at home when they come to Canada. I would be very much surprised if the minister thinks so either.

I think it is interesting to remember that a very short time ago the government was quite willing to allow the director of the international service of the C.B.C., Mr. Desy, to spend \$25,000 on a half-hour broadcast directed to Brazil.

The Deputy Chairman: I think the hon. member will agree that I have allowed him a good deal of leeway in this debate. I know that he will forgive me if I say that, in my opinion, he did not relate his remarks on housing to the subject of immigration as he assured me he would do. Now the hon. member is attempting to discuss a question which certainly has no connection with immigration, and I must ask him to confine his remarks to this subject.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Chairman, I feel that Mr. Desy and his international service are very much connected with immigration.

Mr. Harris: We do not use it in any form for immigration.

Mr. Hees: Then I should like to know the purpose of these international broadcasts.

Mr. Harris: You ask that of the Department of External Affairs or the C.B.C. when the time comes.

Mr. Hees: All I say is that these broadcasts affect immigration acutely because the people to whom they are beamed listen to them and gain an impression of Canada. In many cases, these people have no other way of knowing anything about Canada. The broadcast to Brazil, about which I am speaking, Mr. Chairman, was, I believe, designed to tell the people in Brazil something about Canada, with the idea of inducing people from Brazil to come to Canada. It seems to me, and this is all I have to say about it, very strange that the government is willing to spend \$25,000 on a broadcast to a country 3,000 miles away, when it permits its employee to make a much publicized statement—which was obviously intended to be given great publicity or it would