

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

understanding could be reached as far as immigration policies to be applied are concerned.

[Text]

Item agreed to.

Citizenship—

5. Administration, operation and maintenance including grants and contributions for language instruction and citizenship promotion, \$1,715,000.

**Mr. Gelber:** I should like to say a word about the problem of the adjustment of immigrants in Canada. According to the census of 1961, in the preceding 15 year period one and a half million immigrants came to Canada. Of these, 26 per cent settled in Toronto. I imagine that by now the number of immigrants in Canada must be in the neighbourhood of two million.

The particular problem which interests me is that of the adjustment of Italian immigrants in my own constituency in Toronto. Italian immigrants in my area come largely from small towns. There is not a great sense of community among them and we must always remember they have come to a country where both the customs and the language are strange. It is important that we should pursue an active policy designed to integrate them into the life of Canada. When one considers the history of immigrant communities, particularly in the United States in earlier periods, where problems of juvenile delinquency and crime caused by the failure of social adjustment have been so very serious, it is apparent that we have been fortunate in Canada inasmuch as immigrant communities here have been peaceable and orderly.

Nevertheless I believe we should be actively pursuing policies at the present time designed to integrate these newer elements into the life of Canada. It is important that a gulf should not arise between the children of immigrants and their parents. Children of course adjust themselves more quickly than older people, and if there is a disruption of the social pattern of the immigrant community there are bound to be social problems such as marked earlier years of this century in many immigrant communities.

It seems to me that schools could help in the integration not only of the children of immigrants but of immigrants themselves. The children should be made to feel that their parents are not centuries away from them. The strangeness of their parents to Canada should not be the means of creating a gulf between the generations. Parents should feel that the schools are sympathetic and happy institutions to which they can turn. I be-

[Mr. Tremblay.]

lieve the department should encourage the provincial departments of education to give instruction particularly, I would say, in the Italian language and culture so that parents may feel that our institutions are sympathetic toward the country and the social background from which they came.

There are a number of institutions in my city which are helping to integrate the Italian community. Among these is the international institute of Toronto. I have here an interesting study put out by that institute and prepared by Edith Ferguson. It is called "Newcomers in Transition". The Italian community itself also has an association; the Italian immigrants aid society. The Italian community has grown ten times in extent in the last 15 years and the resources of that society are very modest indeed by comparison with the demands made upon them. Another organization which helps in this field is COSTI. Many immigrants require training, or re-training for special employment, particularly where some disability has prevented an immigrant securing employment in the normal way, and I am pleased that the province of Ontario is to make a grant to the work of COSTI.

This whole problem of immigration and the integration of immigrants would, it seems to me, justify the minister in issuing a white paper to give that leadership which many members of this parliament have urged. The hon. gentleman and his predecessor have given consideration to the problems I have brought to their attention. I was particularly pleased that the previous minister of immigration, now Minister of Justice, should have taken on his staff one of my constituents, Mr. Peter Bosa, a post-war immigrant. I think this is the first time in the history of this country that an immigrant of such recent date has been given responsibility in the administration of this government department.

May I say, in conclusion, that we should not consider the first generation of immigrants to be a lost generation. We should try to maintain cohesion between immigrants of the first and second generations and absorb them both as happily as we can into the fabric of Canadian society.

**Mr. Rapp:** I have a brief comment to make on this particular subject. I believe it is not sufficient for a new immigrant to know the language of the country when he applies for citizenship. I think it is important he should know a little of the history of Canada, particularly when there are two languages in this country of equal status.