

Immigration Appeal Board Act

have published a green book and the Minister of Communications will be meeting with provincial officials this fall to discuss the contents of the proposed policy. I know that lately the correspondence about applications for licences by the Quebec Minister of Communications has been made public, but I do not know what happened afterwards. I will readily inquire and if the minister is not in the House next week I will gladly answer the question.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

IMMIGRATION APPEAL BOARD ACT

PROVISION FOR APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY MEMBERS

The House resumed, from Wednesday, June 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Andras that Bill C-197 to amend the Immigration Appeal Board Act be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Peter Stollery (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the bill before us is an important bill, and these amendments to the Immigration Appeal Board Act are important amendments affecting the lives of many people in our country. It is with great pleasure that I rise to support these amendments.

I should like to say right now that I read with interest two good speeches made in this debate on Wednesday, one by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) and the other by the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche). Both these members have obviously given the subject of immigration a great deal of thought. I believe we could all accept the advice of the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona and resist the temptation to indulge in rhetoric on the question of immigration. Nothing positive is achieved by castigating the government for what, in my opinion, has been a genuinely enlightened attempt to establish fair and open immigration policies.

It is not a simple matter to reconcile the fact that we, in comfortable Canada, want on the one hand to maintain our high standard of living while, on the other hand, we have a duty to accept people from lands less fortunate than our own. I wish to emphasize my view that we have a duty, a moral obligation, to extend our wealth and our welcome to people from countries where the poverty is so grinding that we in Canada cannot even conceive the kind of human indignity into which people are forced. As the hon. member for Greenwood said on Wednesday, we are dealing with individuals. I wonder whether any department of government, other than the Department of Immigration, deals with individuals at such an elementary level where the difference between passing or not passing an interview can mean the difference between a life of hope and dignity in a country like Canada or returning to a country where all is hopeless, all is despair.

For some time, now, it has been evident that the right to appeal an order of deportation was being abused. In my area, the word started to get out just after Christmas that

[Mr. Trudeau.]

this loophole existed in our immigration law. I must say, the loophole was abused not so much by the would-be immigrants as by their various consultants, some legitimate and some not legitimate. I believe it was Sir Thomas More who, describing the habits of the Utopians, said:

They have no lawyers among them for they consider them as a sort of people whose profession it is to disguise matters.

It is certain that over the last few months a lot of lawyers have done very well out of our Immigration Appeal Board Act. I am sure I am not the only member of the House who has come across occasional instances in which not only was a hopeless case being taken to the Appeal Board, but right up to the Supreme Court of Canada at great cost to an unfortunate person who could ill afford such an expense. For some time it has been obvious to me that we should do two things if we are to clear up the immigration problem.

First, we must take away the right of appeal against a deportation order, except in the case of certain categories explicitly laid down. This is being done by the bill before us. We cannot allow people to get off airplanes in Montreal or Toronto airports and, on the strength of being then on Canadian soil embark on a prolonged legal procedure which becomes more seedy as it progresses. By removing this right of appeal we are, in fact, doing those concerned a favour. This action is not being taken to help the immigration officials. It is simply not right to allow a man to get himself involved in a complex legal procedure in a strange country, whose language he does not usually speak well, where the habits are different, where he is often without friends or family. In desperation he is likely to work in some sweat shop for far below the minimum wage and is continually put upon because he cannot defend himself. He has no recourse to the police. As the minister said the other day, he waits for the tap on the shoulder.

So, in fact, by this amendment we are protecting the rights of individuals who cannot protect themselves. I should like to add that I believe it is the general consensus of the people in my area who involve themselves with the immigrant community and their problems, that this amendment is absolutely required, that without it there is no solution to our trouble.

● (1210)

It is my opinion that no person, other than those originating from the United States or St. Pierre and Miquelon, should be allowed into Canada without having first visited a Canadian consular authority abroad and receiving some form of stamp in their passport indicating that some form of check has been done in their country of origin. The corollary is, of course, that we must open more consular offices abroad.

In this context I should like to point out to the minister and to hon. gentlemen opposite—the minister is doing such a fine job in difficult situation, as I know hon. members opposite will agree—that Portugal is one of our largest current sources of immigrants to Canada. Sixty-seven per cent of Portuguese immigrants come from the Azores. The Azores are a group of islands 1,000 miles out in the Atlantic from the mainland of Portugal. In Lisbon, we maintain one of our largest immigration offices overseas. We have four full-time immigration officers in Lisbon. Yet