

by most other countries. I am not aware of any of our major western wartime allies who pay automatic survivor benefits to widows on any basis even approaching the 48 per cent basis which we in Canada use.

Having said that, I must also say that the entire matter of veterans benefits, and that includes pro rated widow's pensions, is always under constant review by the Department of Veterans Affairs and by the Canadian Pension Commission and the other agencies of my ministry, to see what changes can be made to improve the lot of the veterans and their dependants.

IMMIGRATION—IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF DUBÉ INQUIRY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale):** Mr. Speaker, since 1973 the federal government has been conducting intensively a comprehensive review of Canada's immigration policy. With the publication of the green paper on immigration in December, 1974, the final report of the Special Joint Committee on Immigration Policy in November, 1975, and the Economic Council of Canada reports "Options for Growth" in 1975 and "People and Jobs Study" in 1976, the government should have sufficient information and enough recommendations for an up to date Immigration Act helping to direct the flow of future immigrants and the population growth in our country.

Canada's exceptional economic growth is due not just to good governments, but above all to its human resources—the brave, hardworking settlers from France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and other countries of Europe, and from other continents. The energies and talents of these settlers and of the immigrants who followed them are making an increasing contribution to the development, defence, and prosperity of Canada. Today new pressures and needs have arisen and they are clamouring for attention and solution which we should provide without fear because we are a nation with sufficient diversity and richness, as well as productive capacity, and an awareness of our international responsibilities. Therefore there is no reason to further delay action in this matter.

It is becoming more and more urgent to deal quickly with these new problems, the results of our anachronistic, obsolescent, and unfair laws, regulations and attitudes. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) has promised us a new Immigration Act for this fall. In the meantime problems, abuses, frustration and, indeed, personal tragedies are piling up. As a result Judge Claire L'Heureux-Dubé was appointed special commissioner to conduct an inquiry into certain problems in the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

● (2210)

In January, 1976, the commissioner submitted a report outlining just a few flagrant shortcomings and recommending ways in which the minister should, on an urgent basis, put some order into the application of current regulations and practices. Among others, the commissioner made statements urging improvements in the legal representation available to visitors, and recommending the expansion of legal aid plans as well as the establishment of a system of control over those representing persons dealing

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with the immigration department in order to ensure a standard of competence and ethics.

The commissioner called attention in paragraph 370 of the report to the need to prevent the exploitation of persons wishing to become landed immigrants by ensuring adequate information services both here and abroad. There is a great need to provide appropriate information in the language of the visitor and of the potential immigrant to Canada. Furthermore, there is even today a lack of sufficient numbers of expert interpreters whose services are available to people seeking assistance from the Immigration Department.

Another serious aspect of the immigration issue is the working of the appeal system. I should like to refer to the testimony of the chairperson of the Immigration Appeal Board before the Special Joint Committee on September 23, 1975, which revealed that the appeal system is, and I quote:

—unnecessarily complex, cumbersome and unjust and that the present appeal system to the Board in relation to refugees and citizenship claims is a shambles, and something has to be done about it.

The chairperson of the Appeal Board went on to make at least three very good recommendations. We are all waiting for long overdue action on these recommendations, for justice delayed is justice denied.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Arthur Portelance (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, Judge l'Heureux-Dubé has clearly indicated in her report that the legislation in force in 1972 had given rise to some problems at that time. Since then however, the Immigration Act and its regulations as well as the Immigration Appeal Board Act have been substantially altered to correct some problems mentioned in the report of Judge Dubé. The changes are briefly as follows:

a) In November 1972, any individual who wanted to immigrate to Canada had to file an application to one of our offices abroad; b) during the same year, some regulations concerning employment visas were enforced to enable the department to control the number of non-immigrants accepting employment in Canada; c) in 1973, the Immigration Appeal Board Act was amended to restrict the right of appeal to some group of persons; d) in 1974, amendments were brought to the immigration regulations so that the selection procedure would be more responsive to the needs of the labour market.

The actions taken following Judge Dubé's report are as follows: a) four of the six persons judged severely by the report no longer work for the department, and the disciplinary actions recommended in the report were taken against the other two. Briefly here are the disciplinary measures taken in each case:

1. Laurence Doirion—fired
2. Georges-Étienne Desrochers—retired before the report was published
3. Brian Purdon—fired
4. Vic Bellemare—fired
5. Gaston Therrien—suspended (10 days)
6. R. Primeau—severely admonished