

Immigration Act

immigration policies should be and as to what Canada's immigration policies should be and as to what Canada is all about.

Canada is a land for everybody. Of course, it should be under some responsible direction, there is no doubt about that. But when I hear the statement as it was expressed by the hon. members, when I hear the other statement as expressed by the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) who has just entered the House, I wonder what kind of Canada they want. Is it a Canada for the kind of Canadians they say are best for Canada? These are the words of the hon. member: "We are the kind of people who should enjoy Canada. We should know who are the kind of people we should receive in this country, who should enjoy what we enjoy." But what kind of Canada would we have had we held those views many years ago? Would we have granted in operation "My Country" the famous amnesty which allowed over 60,000 Canadians to regularize their situation in Canada, Canadians who today are extraordinarily good Canadians, contributing to the good of this country by their taxes and by their work? If we were to accept this bill and allow it to become our law, we would not have a good country.

The hon. member knows what my approach is to him and to all hon. members. Instead of arriving and blasting the hon. member, I would only like to have more time to exchange with him some views of what is good policy for immigration. I had

the honour to be a member of the joint Senate and House of Commons committee on the green paper and, if I may say to my friends, nothing has been more scrutinized than this act. I was not even happy about it because I believe it is still too narrow in its approach. I wish that we had a more liberal immigration policy. This immigration policy is probably the most scrutinized piece of legislation we have ever had in four years.

There was a committee called the Joint Senate and House of Commons Special Committee on Immigration which studied the green paper. It travelled all across Canada. That was a parliamentary committee that looked into this question. There were also hours and hours of work done by all members from all parties, the hon. member's included, to see if we could not, through give and take, arrive at the kind of law we have today.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, before I am called to order because of the time, I would like to ask my hon. friend kindly to reflect and consider all the implications of what he is trying to propose. This is about the most sensitive issue we talk about, when we talk about immigration.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has expired. It being five o'clock the House stands adjourned until Monday at two o'clock p.m. pursuant to Standing Order 2(4).

At 5.02 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.