

the minister, who had been questioned on a problem of the immigration of dependents of Canadian citizens of Chinese origin, said:

Having in mind the present situation in China—

He was referring of course to the political disturbances there.

—and the known desire of parents to have their children with them, we have come to the conclusion that we will give consideration to those cases of unmarried children over twenty-one up to the age of twenty-five, to see if the circumstances warrant their admission on the grounds I have stated.

On the grounds of hardship.

Now, that was a very encouraging announcement, because ever since the disturbing events on the Chinese mainland the problem of the movement of dependents of Canadian citizens of Chinese origin has become increasingly urgent. I find that in application, however, of this broader principle, it only applies to those who are the remaining survivors of the family on the mainland. If there is any other member of the family still resident within China, no exception is made in the 21-year limitation for unmarried children.

This has resulted in a problem that was inevitable. The children of Canadian citizens succeed in getting to Hong Kong, which is the jumping-off point to Canada; and, because of the narrow application of the regulation, that is as far as they get. I understand the brief from the Chinese benevolent society indicates there are some 6,000 of them in Hong Kong waiting permission to join a father, in most cases, because the Chinese population in this country has tended to be largely a male population, owing to earlier policy in regard to their admission.

Perhaps I could emphasize the problem by just giving broadly one or two cases. I am interested in two cases in which the children are between 21 and 25. One is the son of a Chinese laundryman who is alone, and looking for someone to take over his business. The other is the son of a Chinese Canadian restaurant owner, who again is alone and he is quite willing to sponsor his son. He is quite willing to assure the son will not become an economic liability, and to comply with all the other demands of our Canadian immigration policy. The only reason both children are not admissible is that there are relatives still remaining on the mainland. They are in Hong Kong. They cannot go back to the mainland on pain of death. I do not believe they would be too popular with the present regime there, and they cannot go forward because of the regulations. This does constitute a humanitarian problem of some considerable proportions.

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### *Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

I do not believe we need to labour that point any further. But it seems to require the sort of action that was finally taken in the immediate post-war years in dealing with the refugee problem in Europe. When the Canadian government finally did get under way, after pressure from parliament and public opinion, a tremendous job was done, but many lives were lost and much suffering was caused because we delayed our action in that regard.

I said that most members of the house agreed broadly with the present policy of the department of immigration. If there is one query I would raise it is the seemingly arbitrary power of the officials of the department. In order to assure flexibility in immigration affairs, it seems that officials of the department, by means of order in council, can almost control the immigration situation as they wish. This fact is illustrated in so far as deportation matters are concerned where the officials, without recourse to the normal channels of justice, can arbitrarily deport immigrants from this country.

There is another query that comes to my mind, and I have endeavoured to gather some information on this very complex problem. At the moment it would appear that the occupational categories are being strongly stressed with reference to the movement of immigrants from Europe. The categories that are being stressed are those of domestics and agricultural workers. In looking at the statistics for the past two years, 1952 and 1953, this has resulted in a rather substantial influx of immigrants from Holland, from Germany and from Italy. In endeavouring to obtain information on this matter, I find that the reason these categories apply to these particular countries is the obvious reason that they are more amenable to the work of domestics or agricultural workers. I find, looking at the statistics for immigration from Greece for 1952, we have 1,691 and for the calendar year 1953, we have 2,059.

I happen to know there is quite a strong demand for a less restrictive policy in regard to immigration from Greece. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that the Greek situation would be comparable to the Italian situation so far as domestic and labour requirements were concerned. The answer seems to be just the reverse, that the Greeks do not adapt as readily in this country as do the Italians. There are Greek citizens in Canada already who, it would seem, have made a very successful adjustment to their new life in Canada. Notwithstanding this occupational factor, I have discovered that it is not compulsory for an immigrant to remain indefinitely in domestic or agricultural work. In fact,