

fact that Japan is at present an alien enemy country, I suggest that we are not dealing with the nationals of that country, and that the policy as far as Japan is concerned can be determined only after a peace treaty is signed.

Mr. GREEN: I suggest that it is in order, because I was going to say a change might be made in the Chinese Immigration Act by substituting the word "Japanese" throughout that act for "Chinese" rather than repealing the act; and I submit that is in order on a discussion of this repeal measure.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): I should like to speak to the point of order in support of the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green). We are discussing the repeal of the Chinese Immigration Act, which to all intents and purposes was an exclusion act. So I think it is quite fair to discuss other exclusion acts or exclusion orders in council which this government has passed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On second reading, of course, it is usual to discuss the general principle underlying the bill. This bill refers to the Immigration Act and also in particular to the Chinese Immigration Act. The minister in charge of the bill has suggested that the question of the immigration of Japanese into this country should not be considered at this time, as the Japanese are alien enemies and are not being admitted. I think probably there will be a feeling on the part of hon. members that the question of the Japanese might well be left in abeyance for the present.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: May I ask a question on the point of order? The other day I heard the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs say that as yet it had not been decided when the war would be declared over. Are they enemies now, or are they being welcomed down here? They are still here.

Mr. GREEN: In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, once more I would ask that this house and this country, before this bill is passed, be given full details concerning Chinese immigration that will be allowed if the Chinese Immigration Act is repealed, and what will be the future policy in regard to Chinese immigration. Also we should be told the policy of this government toward the suggested united nations control over immigration into Canada, and in the third place we should be told the policy of this government concerning Japanese immigration.

Mr. W. ROSS THATCHER (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the explanation given by the minister, and to the

remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green). The major change proposed by the bill, as I understand it, is the repeal of the Chinese Immigration Act.

As hon. members realize, this act has singled out the Chinese people for a kind of treatment which Canada does not apply to any other nationals. It prohibits any person of Chinese origin from coming to Canada to make a permanent home. If I understand it correctly, the act as it stands is frankly discriminatory. In effect it officially labels Chinese people as undesirables, because of their race and their colour.

Since its inception as a party, the C.C.F. has always been opposed to racial discrimination of any kind. We believe that all men, regardless of race, religion, colour or creed are entitled to the same treatment under Canadian laws. In the past we have always opposed intolerance, and we intend to do so in this instance.

The Chinese Immigration Act is an insulting and unwarranted slur against a fine race of people, people, moreover, who were our allies in the recent war. The act was passed in an era of prejudice. Having allowed thousands of Chinese men to come to Canada, it then deprived them of the society of their wives and their children. To this group such action seems contrary to the principles of morality, humanity and social welfare.

The hon. member for Vancouver South said that he had the greatest admiration for the Chinese people. I am sure we all have. But would it not be a good way to show our admiration, if we were to allow those who are married to bring their wives to this country? As I understand it, the repeal of the act does not mean an open door to Chinese immigration. It will place the Chinese people under the same regulations as apply to the nations of other foreign countries. This group, therefore, welcomes the repeal of the Chinese Immigration Act, and I believe I can say that the members of this group will support this action unanimously.

I should like to make a few comments on the Immigration Act, as it is now before us. I cannot refrain from expressing concern over the continued failure of the government to adopt a long-term immigration policy. Last session the house debated a resolution which in effect asked for such a policy. Numerous speakers, representative of all political parties, expressed themselves in favour of that resolution. Last year, too, the senate did some admirable work in this connection, when it brought in a comprehensive report recommending material changes in the Immigration Act.