

a bit, particularly in one sector. I am told that the drifting away from the rural communities in Ontario to the towns is still going on and that in the neighbouring parts of the northern United States there are still many communities where farmers' sons, because of the tremendously high price of land in the United States, are finding it somewhat difficult to become established in agriculture. Because they are people who have that vocation and desire to continue in agriculture, I have been wondering if there would be any effective way of making known to the right kind of people the opportunities that there would be in Canada, either in Ontario or in some parts of the prairies. The United States is such a huge area, and if we were to launch upon any kind of promotional campaign we would be competing with such loud voices, if I may put it that way, I have been a little afraid up until now that any amount of money parliament would permit us to spend there would make such a small impact that it would not be worth while.

Mr. CANNON: In referring to immigration from Italy and Greece you mentioned occupational groups and skills. It seems to me that it might be interesting if you were to tell the committee what the department considers to be the right occupational groups and skills.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: I believe I can answer that very briefly, Mr. Cannon, by saying we consult the Department of Labour and it is a purely empirical approach we have to it. We endeavour to encourage people to come to Canada who are likely to be readily employed at jobs for which they are trained and if the demand for a certain skill is more than satisfied by the existing population in Canada we try to tell the prospective immigrants the truth and explain that they will not be likely to get a job quickly, if they come to this country unless they are willing to take up some other occupation. For this reason we frequently send a new advice to the offices abroad about employment prospects in Canada.

Mr. CANNON: It depends on circumstances from time to time?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: Yes, it depends on the employment picture in Canada.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nesbitt has been trying to get the floor for a long time.

Mr. NESBITT: I have one brief question with regard to Mr. Michener's question and the minister's remark concerning Dutch immigration. The minister indicated in his remarks that he did not think there would be much likelihood of an increase and in fact there was some probability of a decrease in emigration from Holland because of full employment in that country. Would the minister consider that possibly other factors might assist in the continuation of Dutch immigration at the present level; for instance, the fact that ownership of land in Holland is difficult to obtain and many Dutch people like to come here because they can obtain land. There is also the fact that the standard of living in Holland is considerably lower with respect to certain commodities such as cars, which is due to the high price of gasoline, and the rigidity of their labour arrangements with respect to wages and so on. They have a rigid wage scale like some of the old craft apprenticeships. Does the minister feel that these factors would help to maintain immigration from Holland at its present level?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: Without necessarily accepting Mr. Nesbitt's assessment of the conditions in Holland, I would think those considerations do keep immigration up. We are going to try hard to ensure that it will be just as high as it was last year and if we can make it a little higher we will be very happy. However, I think those are the counteracting factors and I think the same factors or similar ones operate in the United Kingdom. There are a lot of people in the United Kingdom who might be better off financially to stay