

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

must be prepared to settle here and establish themselves without any assistance from the Canadian government. We shall have to be charitable. We shall have to accept people from countries which are less fortunate than those from which the bulk of our immigrants have come in past years. I do not think we will get as many immigrants in the future from Great Britain and other nations which have been the traditional source of our new settlers as we have in the past. We shall be forced to reconsider this present policy which, as everyone knows, discriminates, for instance, against people from the West Indies.

I am as aware as anyone of the problems which attach to bringing in immigrants from the West Indies. I had the experience of helping to bring in a girl for domestic work for a gentleman in Ottawa. When the girl arrived it was found she had never handled an electric stove and was in danger of getting burnt. She knew nothing about cooking as practised in Canada. Indeed there were many ups and downs in that household before one could call her a domestic servant. And once she was, once she had been trained, she wanted to do something else because she had increased her skill.

We know there are problems. We know the reasons for this reluctance to broaden our immigration policy. But we know also that in certain years, particularly in the peak period of migration to Canada, we opened our doors to arrivals from certain countries because of the need which existed at that time, and as a result of this charitable approach millions have come to Canada, helped to build up the fabric of our country and made a great contribution to our national life.

I must say I did not think the minister would be as broadminded on these matters as he has shown himself to be. I thought he would be a terrible minister of immigration. But I have found out since he took office that he has paid considerable attention to the problems which face him, as they have faced every minister in charge of this department. I pay tribute, too, to the attitude taken by the minister who preceded the hon. gentleman for a short while. This being so, I think there may be a chance of our getting some of the changes we desire. In his approach to this question I hope the minister will bear in mind that this is a house of minorities and that there may be reasonable men sitting in all parts of this chamber. If we could develop an immigration policy of which this parliament could be proud it

[Mr. Peters.]

would, I think, work for the good of the Canadian people for many years to come, enhancing Canada's stature as a land which took a humanitarian and advanced approach to immigration rather than the archaic ones we have at present.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ricard: I did not intend to speak on the estimates now before the committee, but the fit of hysterics which the hon. republican member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) had a moment ago forces me to take the floor and set the record straight.

Some time ago when the house was considering, if I am not mistaken, the estimates of the Department of Agriculture, I said that the only solution which the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hays) seemed to have in mind was to bring Algerian immigrants into the country and have them settled on farms. I stated then that, in my opinion, it was a very poor way of improving a deplorable situation, for workers should not be brought in to swell the members of those who suffer hardship because of the depressed conditions prevailing in that particular segment of our economy.

Anybody who refers to *Hansard* of that time will see that I said I was in favour of bringing in French speaking immigrants, that it was even desirable to give this matter more attention than in the past. I never said that I was against French speaking immigrants and, quite the contrary, I would like to see more French speaking immigrants come to Canada. I hope that the present minister will do his utmost in this connection.

Before I resume my seat I think it is important—besides, I feel it would be superfluous on my part to call the attention of the minister to this matter—to exert a close and special control in order to prevent subversive elements from being admitted in this country. The minister certainly has a practical experience of that and I know that he will give this matter all the attention it deserves.

In order to set at rest the mind of the republican from Lotbinière, I would like to repeat that I am in favour of a rational French speaking immigration, and I am confident that the judgment of the minister rather than the judgment of the hon. member I just mentioned will prevail and that this matter will be dealt with fairly and to the satisfaction of everyone, for the progress of Canada and especially of the province of Quebec.