

Immigration

of them I have referred to already. There is the statement of the Minister of Finance when he was minister of citizenship and immigration, in a speech he made at St. Catharines on January 30, 1953 in which he is quoted as follows:

Why is immigration necessary? Mr. Harris explained that natural increase is not sufficient to provide manpower for Canada's expanding industries.

That was a report appearing in the *St. Catharines Standard* of January 30, 1953. The need for more people is supported also by the statements made by chambers of commerce. In a recent comprehensive survey made by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce this subject received exhaustive treatment. The need for more people is also supported by the statements of labour leaders and by the recent policy declarations of the Canadian Congress of Labour. I have here a clipping from the *Ottawa Citizen* of June 12, 1953 which is headed:

Millard—

That is referring to Mr. C. H. Millard.
—urges Canada take more immigrants.

The report in detail of a speech made by Mr. Millard at Smiths Falls contains these summaries:

Europe has a surplus population of 5 million people and it would be "callous" for Canada to refuse to accept its share of them as immigrants, C. H. Millard, Canadian director of the United Steelworkers of America, told the third annual banquet of stewards and executives of steelworkers local 3140 . . .

Then Mr. Millard is quoted as saying:

"Our forefathers came to Canada as a land of opportunity", Mr. Millard said. "Why should we deny the same right to others?" This country has too much "waste space" and its present population does not correspond to its potential.

A summary of the C.C.L. 12-point program to boost employment, which appeared in the *Windsor Daily Star* of September 29, 1954, contains the following as point 8:

A planned immigration policy based on the country's capacity to absorb immigrants in an expanding economy without lowering the standard of living.

So, as I say, the proposition that Canada needs more people is undisputed and is supported by statements made by government spokesmen, chamber of commerce spokesmen and by labour leaders themselves. At this time I think it might be appropriate to say something which I am sure will meet the approval of members of all parties in the house, namely, that we should pay a real tribute to the contributions made to both the cultural and economic development of this country by those who have been admitted to Canada as immigrants. Not only is the need

of Canada for more people undisputed but the fact that the people who have come here have made a tremendous contribution to our growth, culturally and economically, is equally undisputed, and that in itself establishes in return our need for more people of this type.

It is also a fact that many other countries have too many people. Mr. Millard referred to the surplus population of Europe. Of course no one is advocating a limitless policy of absorbing limitless numbers of people without being in any degree selective, but one has only to look at the population of Europe and of the United Kingdom itself to find support, and reference to statements made in the United Kingdom, for instance, establishes that there is a surplus of population which has been estimated to be as high as 7 million people.

The fact that we need people, and that other countries have a surplus, raises a serious question. Can Canada morally or physically pursue an unduly restrictive policy with respect to immigration? Yet notwithstanding the background of these facts and the implications of that question, we find that the record shows that the government is steadily reducing the number of immigrants coming to Canada in each year. I have here a table provided me recently by the director of immigration and taken from the departmental records. It shows that from a high of 194,000 immigrants in the year 1951 there has been a steady reduction. There were 164,000 in 1952, a slight increase to 168,000 in 1953, and 146,000 for the first eleven months of 1954. I understand it is anticipated that the total for 1954 will reach just over 150,000 and that the figure for this year will certainly not be more than 150,000 on the basis of present indications. Therefore the trend of the government's policy is toward a steady reduction in the number of people coming to Canada.

It must be recognized, Mr. Speaker, that the argument is frequently raised that immigration tends to increase unemployment and to aggravate the employment problem in Canada. Now in making our criticism of government policy we do accept the necessity for planning of immigration. We accept the necessity for seasonal planning in order that immigration activities will be so co-ordinated with the employment picture in Canada that when there are times of rising unemployment immigration will taper off.

With respect to this criticism of government policy that I am making, I think I should say in fairness that this is one aspect of government policy over the last few years where they are entitled to some measure of praise because the figures show that in the last