

*Immigration Act*

the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the universal declaration of human rights, as an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among nations and as a fact capable of disturbing peace and security among peoples.

Article 2 goes on to say that no state shall make any discrimination in regard to various matters "on the grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin", and no state shall advocate or lend its support to any discrimination. Article 3 reads as follows:

Particular efforts shall be made to prevent discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin, especially in the fields of civil rights, access to citizenship, education, religion, employment, occupation and housing.

Article 4 states:

All states—

We are included in "all states".

—shall take effective measures to revise governmental and other public policies and to rescind laws and regulations which have the effect of creating and perpetuating racial discrimination wherever it still exists.

We have subscribed to an international charter under which it is undertaken that all states will take effective measures to rescind laws based upon racial discrimination wherever it still exists. And so on. I will not deal with all the other provisions of the resolution, but they all call upon states to take immediate and positive measures to the end of implementing this particular declaration.

Our own leaders have also made clear their detestation of discrimination in relation to immigration matters. As found in *Hansard* for October 18, 1963, the first session of this parliament, at page 3738, I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) a question about Mr. Wayson S. Choy, a Canadian born citizen of Chinese origin who was refused admission to the United States on the ground that he was of Chinese origin. In answer to my question the Prime Minister gave an elaborate and prepared answer in which he said in part:

At the outset I should like to make it very clear that as for Canadian law and policy the present government, like its predecessor, is firmly opposed in principle and in practice to racial discrimination. Mr. Choy may rest assured that as far as Canadian law and policy are concerned his Canadian citizenship is the same as that of every other Canadian born citizen.

Then he went on to say that, although he would not make official representations to the United States as it might not be appropriate to do that, "this does not mean that the Canadian government favours the inclusion of racial origin provisions in the immigration laws of the United States or any other country." We cannot do very much, Mr.

[Mr. Benson.]

Speaker, about the immigration laws of other countries, but if the Canadian government according to the Prime Minister, and I fully accept his statement as made in perfect good faith and sincerity, does not favour the inclusion of racial origin provisions, my bill should be passed because it eliminates a provision based on racial discrimination where parliament explicitly authorizes the governor in council to keep people out on the basis of their ethnic groupings and other grounds which can only be related to race.

I do not propose to elaborate on this matter because I doubt very much that there is anybody in the house who disagrees with what I am saying. I just want to make one or two further observations about it. I anticipate that either the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Nicholson), who I am glad to see is in the house, or his parliamentary secretary may speak in this debate and will say that they agree with the principle of what I am saying, but that the whole immigration law is in the process of examination with a view to extensive revision. I hope this is so; I have urged that it should be so. I think there are very many matters in the immigration law that require careful revision. I know that Mr. Sedgwick, a Toronto lawyer, has been consulted about this matter, but I do not understand why that should make it necessary to delay the present passage of legislation eliminating racial discrimination from our laws.

Let no one in the house say that this does not matter very much because the actual regulations under which the flow of immigrants is governed do not incorporate racial discrimination. Sir, I have found, as I have no doubt every other member of the house who has travelled outside of Canada has found, that in the small world of today, where, whether we like it or not, technology has pushed us all into one society, these relics, if you will, of racial discrimination appearing officially in the law of Canada are an offence to many people throughout the world. They notice these things; we may not. It may be that a member of the house can say that he did not know the immigration law contained such a provision. It may be that the minister may say, as I have no doubt he can say, that we do not apply racial discrimination at this time intentionally or officially, certainly not within the intention of the government, although it may sometimes be done under cover by some people who still retain ancient prejudices.