

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: — I would like to thank my colleagues on all sides of the House for their generous gesture, and to tell them I am so glad the Hon. Member has asked me this question because I was beginning to feel like a singer who went to a party, took his music, and nobody asked him to sing.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Play it again, George.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am on the verge of becoming a conductor who has his orchestra out of control.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: I would like to thank the Hon. Member for Hull-Aylmer very much indeed for his congratulations on my appointment, and I would like to congratulate him—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: —on being appointed the opposition critic for the most important Department in government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: In answer to the Hon. Member's question, Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: What was the question again? Repeat the question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: Don't rush into it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Please answer.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: I cancelled this commission, Mr. Speaker, because I calculated, judging by the number of organizations and individuals who had indicated a desire to be heard by the commission, that it would take at least six months for these presentations to be heard all across Canada, and a further three months for the report to be written. I was not willing to wait nine months to receive this very important information, so I wrote a personal letter to the head of each veterans' organization that had indicated a desire to be heard, and to every individual who indicated a desire to be heard by the commission, and asked them to write to me direct exactly what they intended to present to the commission. These presentations have been coming in at a very good rate. They are being studied. They are being assessed, and I can assure the Hon. Member and Members of the House that where action is

Tabling of Documents

called for that action will be taken promptly, generously, and courteously.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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IMMIGRATION

REQUEST THAT 1985 ENTRY LEVEL BE INCREASED

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration a question which is supplementary to the answer that she gave a moment ago about the immigration level for 1985. She knows that she has the authority to set that level. In view of the economic recovery which the Government confidently predicts, could not the level be set for the coming year at 100,000, bearing in mind the number of divided families who want to be re-united in Canada, and bearing in mind the important contribution that immigrants make as consumers and as workers in our country? Let us not try to spread the responsibility to the provinces. It is her job to set the levels. Why can they not be at 100,000?

● (1500)

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Hon. Member that family reunification, as he mentioned, remains a number one priority for people coming to this country. As many people as are eligible under that category can come, so that means it can raise the levels above 90,000 to 100,000 during the year. I also want him to acknowledge, if he would, that we took steps when announcing these levels so that the number of refugees to this country will be increased next year as well.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Tuesday, November 20, 1984, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

MUSEUMS

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT—CANADIAN MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION CORP.

Mr. Geoff Scott (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order