

informed that it is his right to have counsel should he desire. If he is not represented and does not wish to be, the inquiry proceeds with only the applicant, the special inquiry officer and stenographer present, but if, as sometimes happens, during the proceedings the applicant has second thoughts and wishes counsel, the special inquiry officer will adjourn the inquiry to allow such arrangements to be made. If required, a competent interpreter is provided by the department and is of course present throughout the inquiry.

Before the special inquiry officer arrives at his conclusions, the applicant and/or his counsel are given every opportunity to question, probe, expand upon, and deny, every allegation, statement, document, etc. presented to the inquiry. In arriving at his decision, which is based on all the facts that have been presented at the inquiry, the special inquiry officer is bound by the parameters of the Immigration Act. In other words, only legal considerations, as opposed to humanitarian or compassionate ones, can be considered. If the decision is to admit the person, he is admitted immediately. If the decision is to deport, then deportation is carried out as quickly as possible, taking into account of course human considerations. Naturally, if

*Adjournment Debate*

the applicant has the right of appeal to the Immigration Appeal Board no action is taken until that right has been exercised.

I would like to add that from time to time allegations and complaints are received from persons who feel that they were unfairly or unjustly dealt with by a special inquiry officer. When such information is received a complete investigation is carried out, and invaluable in such an investigation is the complete and "certified correct" transcript of the proceedings. This allows the department to examine in detail everything that transpired.

● (2230)

In addition, I must repeat that if information comes to light during an inquiry which makes a person prohibited under the act, then the special inquiry officer has no alternative but to order deportation.

In conclusion, I would like to reassure hon. members that our special inquiry officers are experienced officers, knowledgeable in the law, who have a tremendous task to perform in the interests of this country and, although not infallible, generally speaking they do a very fine job.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

---