

*Inquiries of the Ministry***IMMIGRATION****POLICY RESPECTING IMMIGRANTS FROM UNITED STATES**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the conflict between statements by top immigration officials that our immigration laws are "patently ridiculous" as they apply to the encouragement of United States immigration and the minister's statement on the other hand that "we need more Americans in Canada because of their easy assimilation in this country," will the minister make a statement on motions clarifying the policy of the department with regard to American immigration?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be appropriate to attempt every time to clarify what the press may report about what officials may have said, especially when they do not identify the officials nor, indeed, even try to pursue the tone of a quote attributed to the minister. There may be an opportunity for the House to discuss this whole issue when the legislation with regard to the immigration appeals board is before it, or indeed perhaps at another time when a statement on immigration policy is placed before the House.

Mr. Lundrigan: Will the minister state whether direction was given to his officials to allow the statement which was made to reach the press in order to distil public feelings regarding the heavy unemployment in Canada at the present time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is not in order in those terms. The hon. member will appreciate that the question is asked in the form of an argument. I do not think it is in order in those terms. The hon. member may want to rephrase his question.

Mr. Lundrigan: Were any directions given to the departmental officials to release a statement of this nature? Also, will the minister state the exact policy of his department with respect to United States immigrants?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As far as the second question is concerned, the hon. member is reiterating the question asked in the first instance as to whether a statement will be made on motions. I do not think that the motion should be made at this time.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Will the minister inform the House by a simple yes or no as to which version is correct, the version in his speech or the version of one of his civil servants? The answer should be simply yes or no.

Some hon. Members: Yes.

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CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**REPORTED AGREEMENT BETWEEN QUEBEC AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS ON AMENDMENT FORMULA**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Are the federal gov-

[Mr. Lang.]

ernment and the government of the province of Quebec in accord on the general lines of a formula for amendment of the constitution, as reported?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will recognize the fact that the question is very large in scope. I wonder whether the hon. member expects a statement of this kind to be made at this time during the question period. The hon. member may inquire whether the minister proposes to make a statement in due course.

Mr. Brewin: I will rephrase my question. Is it proposed to make a statement in the House with regard to any agreement that may be reached as to the amending formula for the Canadian constitution between the federal and the provincial authorities?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I would think that any announcement on the progress of constitutional discussions would be made by the first ministers after the conference that is to be held in Ottawa on February 8 and 9.

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NATIONAL DISASTERS**REQUEST THAT MUNICIPALITY OF ASBESTOS BE DECLARED A DISASTER AREA**

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Acting Prime Minister.

In view of the landslide which occurred in Asbestos causing the relocation of numerous families and requiring the construction of new housing, can the minister tell the House whether he has received a request from the authorities of this community that it be declared a disaster area?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will inquire.

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GRAIN**WHEAT—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF INITIAL PRICES AND QUOTA ESTIMATES TO FACILITATE SEEDING PLANS**

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In order to facilitate the spring seeding plans of western farmers, will the minister announce as soon as possible the initial prices and quota estimates for the current crop year?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): In the proposals tabled in the House in late October, Mr. Speaker, it was indicated that we hoped to do this prior to March 1. This remains our hope.