

Supply

when he comes here. I believe he has accounting experience. I just wonder why an application such as this one could not be considered.

● (2310)

I was pleased to learn the figures with regard to people coming from Europe and the United Kingdom. Three or four people in my riding have come over on visitor's permits. They bought property and have invested substantial amounts of money. I believe I have mentioned one specific instance personally to the minister. One family invested one quarter of a million dollars and another invested close to a half a million dollars. This money is being used for the tourist industry, to attract European tourists to this country. In one case an appeal was to be launched to bring over Dutch people; the other case concerned German people. Even on a quota basis, with the balance of payments the way they are now, I would hope the minister would look at the matter from a dollars and cents point of view. That kind of money coming into Canada should certainly count for a good many pluses on the point system, or whatever it is.

I want to commend to the minister the Orillia immigration office. That is the office with which I deal in my riding. We have had exceptional co-operation from its manager, Mr. Charles Brooks. I am very sorry to hear that he is reaching retirement age. However, I presume he will be replaced shortly by someone who will carry on his good work. My constituency office and myself are delighted with the co-operation we receive from him.

Under the winter works program, or whatever it is called now, many of the ridings have had their budgets reduced to \$100,000, plus a little extra for the native people. But due to the serious employment situation with which we will be faced I hope some extra money will be found to take people off the unemployment rolls and provide work under this worth-while project. I know that my time has run out, but could the minister comment on some of those questions I have presented to him?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I will attempt to answer briefly. If the hon. member wants more extensive answers, we could supply them by letter.

On the question of the admission of real estate agents under the training program, in each province where there are agreements we have what is called a manpower needs committee. Under that scheme, provincial officials sit down with federal representatives to discuss what kinds of training programs have the highest priority. Training programs must be run through their own institutions. The grading is simply done under what is called the greatest need because we have scarce resources. Real estate programs are just not considered to be as high a priority as those for machinists, pipefitters, etc.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Is that provincial or federal?

Mr. Axworthy: It is a joint committee. We have officials from both levels of government. But I do understand that the real estate industry itself has its own program which it admin-

isters. On the immigration cases, I would be prepared to consider the ones which the hon. member has raised. I know the particular case of the Dutch family because the hon. member has spoken to me about that. This family had been told before coming to Canada that landed immigrant status could not be granted, although I believe I pointed out in the letter that they may become eligible under the entrepreneurial class. Again, this is something we could discuss with officials of the province of Ontario; the province has to certify that it is a legitimate investment in the business. However, I will be glad to follow that up with the hon. member.

In the other case, if the hon. member would like to refer the matter to me, I will be glad to take a look at it.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleagues and other members of the House for allowing me some time before the close of this period.

I would like to turn to the question of the budget's effect on programs for women. It is evident that there will be increases in social affairs spending in the next three years. These are projected at 10.6 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 6.9 per cent. By contrast, total government spending for those same years was expected to be 12.8 per cent, 10.5 per cent and 10.1 per cent. Clearly, the funding for the envelope in which the minister's portfolios fall is not going to be held at levels sufficient even to keep pace with the inflation rates. As we are looking at estimates, what is the minister going to do to make sure that the level of funding is raising to a priority level in over-all government spending, particularly because of its prominent place in the throne speech and the minister's own commitments to women's programs.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I am glad the hon. member asked me that question because I think I shall be able to provide some answers which he will find welcome. While some restraints have been imposed on the social affairs committee, we have been quite successful in increasing substantially the funding for different women's activities under federal government jurisdiction. For example, the office of the co-ordinator of the status of women has had its budget doubled this year to provide for 12 new positions to allow for a greater degree of activity and co-ordination. The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which also comes directly under my responsibility, has had its budget for 1980-1981 increased to close to \$600,000 which again, represents almost a doubling of its budget in this budget year.

In the case of women's programs under the Secretary of State, whose department provides substantial support for research and operating grants for women's groups across the country, in August of this year the cabinet committee agreed to an increase of \$500,000. This again provides a substantial increase, almost a doubling of the amount. In the women's bureau of the Department of Labour, again there has been a substantial increase in funding. It has had an increase of close to \$300,000. In each of these cases of bureaus or operations directly affecting women's programs, we have been able to