

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration who, in spite of her protests to the contrary, has made a decision which to many appears lacking in humanity, compassion or understanding in that it will result in the departure of an ANC refugee to East Germany. This decision threatens to become a *cause célèbre* just as we are about to welcome Nelson Mandela to Canada.

Before making this decision, did she engage in any kind of consultation with the Secretary of State for External Affairs about the implication in terms of Canada's position in its fight against apartheid in this whole scene?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. member that the person in question has been given a departure notice. That means that he can go to any country of his choosing. He is not being deported; he can go to any country of his choosing. It is a departure notice, not a deportation, and it was a decision that was made by an independent board.

If the head of the refugee board feels that this is worthy of another look, I am sure that he will do that. I would remind the hon. member that this is a quasi-judicial process.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, among the countries to which he might go, and which the minister has mentioned, is East Germany where his wife has no rights as a citizen and where Fascist, racist reaction has made it very difficult for people of Randeree's origins.

My supplementary question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This ANC refugee is the son of an ANC activist with close connections and friendships with the ANC leadership. Has the minister reflected upon the impact of removal of this refugee, should this arise during Mandela's visit, particularly when Mr. Randeree, Mahmood's father, has written specifically to Nelson Mandela to ask for his intervention?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my colleague has indicated to the House on several occasions that there are options open to the individual. She has also indicated to the House, in response to a question from the member from Winnipeg South Centre, that if there is a recommendation by Mr. Fairweather that will be considered very seriously.

Now the hon. member is putting forward a quite remarkable proposition in the House, that is, that the policy of Canada should be changed to take account of the situation of people who are welcome visitors to the country. That would be an absurd proposition and certainly not one that we would want to follow here.

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[Translation]

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In the past few months, I have sought several remedies in the House of Commons, in the form of petitions and motions, to advance the payment date for the September family allowance cheque and give Canadian families much-needed help just before school starts.

Mr. Speaker, my question is this: Could the minister tell the House today whether his department is prepared to allow this change this year, as part of the family allowance review plan?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his question.

I am very much aware of this issue, but although the proposal has its merits, I am not prepared to introduce the change at this time. However, I can assure the hon. member that the proposal will be subject to a cost-benefit analysis as part of the review plan for income security programs.

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• (1450)

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. What concrete and specific commitment did the Deputy Prime Minister receive from the president of the