

Immigration Act, 1976

will have until October 15, 1987 to apply. In bringing forward the deadline, we will also avoid the inevitable delays in the postal service that result during the Christmas season. We will, once again, send information to the authors' associations so that, through their newsletters, they can inform their members of how to register for the 1987/88 program.

ALEXANDER PROUDFOOT COMPANY OF CANADA

Question No. 163—**Mr. Murphy:**

To date, has any money been paid to the Alexander Proudfoot Company of Canada for work done for Air Canada during the months of April and May, 1987 and, if so, in what amount?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): The management of Air Canada advises that payments have been made to the Alexander Proudfoot Company of Canada for work done during the months of April and May, 1987, in accordance with the terms of the current contract with the company. Informations regarding the amounts involved is of a proprietary nature and cannot be released for contractual reasons.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lewis: I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all notices of motions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

IMMIGRATION ACT, 1976

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration) moved that Bill C-84, an Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1976 and the Criminal Code in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee

He said: Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members have been recalled during what is usually the summer recess so that the House may take immediate measures to eliminate abuses against our refugee policies and then consider without delay a new refugee status determination process.

I should think that most Canadians now agree that the process has given rise to a shady and despicable trade, namely trafficking in human lives. In our opinion, we must take immediate action to dissuade those who abuse the generosity of Canada by illicitly bringing people into this country.

Mr. Speaker, I think urgent action is required, a fact which cannot be denied. Without delay our legislation must echo our feeling of exasperation and frustration at abuses against our generosity and our feeling of disgust for unscrupulous profiteers.

[*English*]

We must immediately declare through this legislation that Canada will no longer tolerate the willful and flagrant violation of our traditions, laws and borders. There is a sense of urgency for this is not yet a crisis. It is, however, a grave situation which, if left unaddressed, would grow worse. Those who say let us wait are merely asking that the problems grow worse and the solutions more distant and hence more difficult.

• (1550)

Today we address a Bill which we believe all Members of this House will agree deserves urgent attention and rapid passage. Let us consider the major features of this Bill. It increases penalties for smugglers and their accomplices with prison terms of up to 10 years and maximum fines of \$.5 million. Penalties under the current Act do not recognize the recent phenomenon of organized smuggling of groups of individuals. These measures penalize those seeking to profit by preying on the hopes and circumstances of those wanting to come to Canada.

This Bill imposes penalties for the specific offence of disembarkation of passengers at sea for the purpose of illegal entry into Canada. The maximum penalties for this offence are \$500,000 and prison terms of up to 10 years.

This Bill provides specific legislative powers to direct vessels suspected of carrying persons who are attempting to enter Canada in contravention of immigration law not to enter or to leave Canadian waters. This power is necessary for deterrence. It is likewise necessary for the apprehension of vessels and, where appropriate, to turn vessels back. The Government will consider all relevant factors in dealing with individual vessels and their occupants; the ships' locations, both in terms of international law and our capacity to intercept it; the ship's flag and the possible need to seek another country's co-operation; the ship's seaworthiness, the safety of our crews and the safety of the ship and its passengers; the condition of the passengers and the availability of food, water and fuel; and what we can physically do given the weather conditions.