

Establishment of Immigration Appeal Board

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the minister a question? In answering some questions earlier the minister was quite emphatic that the board could travel. Is his advice very clear that, without saying so in the act, they could in fact travel and hear appeals elsewhere than Ottawa. If, so would there not be value in making this provision in clause 6? It is even required that the chairman and other members of the board have to live in Ottawa or within 15 miles thereof. I wonder whether it would not be better if the law spelled out the fact that the board may travel and hear appeals across the country.

Mr. Marchand: This is something we can consider, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Shall clause 6 carry?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, if the minister is going to consider the question, perhaps clause 6 should stand.

The Chairman: Does the committee agree that clause 6 stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.
Clause 6 stands.

[Translation]

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Chairman, with regard to this clause, is there any particular reason why the members of this board must live within 15 miles of Ottawa?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Chairman, this is because experience in connection with such boards has shown that if members live very far from the capital, it is very difficult to get them together regularly, and it is the usual practice for several of these federal agencies to require that members live within a certain distance from the city, or in the city, so that they may be convened quickly.

● (10:00 p.m.)

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Chairman, are they strictly required to reside in Ottawa?

Mr. Marchand: The act stipulates that they must reside in Ottawa. However, an exception provides that the governor in council may authorize a member of the board to live within 15 miles from the city or elsewhere.

Mr. Langlois: A supplementary question. For instance, this does not exclude the possibility of members of the board coming from other areas of the country, but they must reside here?

[Mr. Marchand.]

Mr. Marchand: That is right, Mr. Chairman. The members can come from anywhere in Canada, but after their appointment, unless authorized by the governor in council, they must reside in Ottawa or within 15 miles of the city.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I have only one question to ask. Since my colleague, the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard), suggested that the regulations were perhaps designed to prevent the minister from appointing some "young punk" from Chicoutimi, I ask the minister to assure me that such is not the case.

Mr. Marchand: If the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) wants to be appointed to the board—

Mr. Grégoire: Is the minister also trying to call the people of Lapointe "young punks", as he did for those in Chicoutimi?

[English]

The Chairman: Is it understood that clause 6 shall stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.
Clause stands.

The Chairman: Shall clause 7 carry?

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I have some comments to make on clause 7, and I see it is after ten o'clock.

Progress reported.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the house would be willing to deal with a couple of items that were indicated for today, namely item 131 and item 130 which refer matters to standing committees? Item 131 is a motion to refer the report of the Department of External Affairs to the standing committee on external affairs. Item 130 is a motion to refer the hate propaganda matter to a joint committee.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, we would be prepared to pass the resolution to refer the report of the Department of External Affairs to the committee, but I think that we would have to take another look at item 130. This should be left for another time.