

attention. It is my view that it has been based on misleading and inaccurate analyses of the situation. It suggests that these measures were—

**Mr. Gauthier:** It is a unanimous report.

**Miss Carney:** You asked the question, maybe I could answer. It suggests that these measures were announced by press release without cabinet approval. These measures were not announced by me, they were announced by the Minister of Finance on November 8, on behalf of the President of the Treasury Board. They were tabled in the House in the Blue Book of that date.

The suggestion that any homeowner lost any benefit that was accruing to him or her is not correct because all applications were treated under the old rules until such time as the Order in Council affecting the announcement was passed. The suggestion that anyone lost a benefit—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

##### IMASCO TAKEOVER OF GENSTAR—ROLE OF CANADA TRUST— SELF-DEALING INQUIRY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. I am sure that she would not deliberately mislead the House. Earlier I asked her if it was the case that one subsidiary of Imasco—Canada Trust—could make a loan to another Imasco subsidiary, namely, Imperial Tobacco, at the end of next year. The Minister replied that it was not possible because there was an agreement by Imasco not to allow that. Will the Minister confirm that the agreement made by the company expires at the end of next year and therefore the kind of self-dealing measure that I alluded to could in fact take place at the end of next year?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Hon. Member. There is a general clause in the agreement that takes effect at the end of December, 1987. As the House knows, our intent is to put in place laws of general application and, with my optimistic nature, hopefully it will be long before then and will apply in this case.

##### MINISTER'S POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I want the Minister to be perfectly clear about what is at stake here with this takeover. In terms of existing law, the concerns of committee members on both sides of the House are still going to be—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. May I have a question, please?

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Broadbent:** We are being asked to buy a pig in a poke. That is what the Government is doing.

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, there is no pig and there is no poke. This company has made a real undertaking to conform to our public policy requirements. It did so at our request and we worked very hard to bring about this arrangement. Legislation is forthcoming that will apply to this and other companies as well.

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#### IMMIGRATION

##### UNSCRUPULOUS IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Immigration. He has made it public that he is trying to rid the system of phoney refugees. Yet there is growing concern that much of the problem lies with unscrupulous immigration consultants who are scheming fraudulent schemes against innocent individuals. Is the Minister prepared also to rid the system of phony consultants? And is he prepared to ask his colleague, the Solicitor General, to persecute and charge such individuals—

● (1200)

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** You have a persecution complex.

**Mr. Marchi:** prosecute—some of whom his Department knows about?

**Mr. Hees:** Liberals persecute.

**Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for raising an important question on a matter of concern to all Members of the House and one which I have been addressing seriously. The RCMP at the moment are investigating the matter. I would ask the Hon. Member and others, to provide information which may permit action to be taken.

I also want to say that I have been in touch particularly with the Portuguese community and others to inform them that this particular action is unacceptable and we are seeking whatever scheme is necessary. I might remind the Hon. Member that the previous Government had conducted a study of this matter and was unable to act and he might like to acquaint himself with the report which was tabled by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry.

**Mr. Marchi:** A short question?

**Mr. Speaker:** No.