

government intimidates Canadian citizens, collects personal information for possible use in espionage and blackmail, and extorts considerable sums of money. Will the minister tell the House, and concerned Canadians of Czech and Slovak origin, whether the government has taken any effective steps to end these despicable and dangerous practices or whether the government, while engaging in unproductive negotiations, has in fact allowed the Prague communist regime to perpetuate its activities in Canada?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am not aware of any such activities by the Czechoslovakian government in Canada at the present time. My hon. friend may be referring to the fact that the government of Czechoslovakia so far has not been prepared to sign an agreement with Canada concerning the problem of dual nationality. It does have such an agreement with the United States, but dating from pre-communist days, not one that was entered into by the communist government. The government is continuing its efforts to negotiate such an agreement at the present time.

● (1450)

PROCEDURES SURROUNDING ISSUANCE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN
PASSPORTS

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): The minister is aware, of course, that they have been negotiating with this government for a long time, as far back as 1979. Is the minister aware that Czechoslovak passports are issued to Canadian residents of Czech and Slovak origin for travel to eastern Europe; and that this process involves the completion of a lengthy and intimate questionnaire, a personal interview by an officer of the Czechoslovak diplomatic service, and the signing of a statement of allegiance to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic? Why was the provision in the Canadian Citizenship Act, which had a very salutary effect on this sort of thing and protected Canadian citizens of Czechoslovak origin and other nationalities from this kind of treatment undermining our country's sovereignty taken out of the Canadian Citizenship Act in 1976?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the hon. gentleman and I have approximately the same knowledge as Members of Parliament had about what happened in the Canadian Citizenship Act at that time. As I recall, I was the only member of the committee at that time who objected to those changes. All of the other hon. members of his party and of mine agreed with them. I am not sure that the hon. member should be addressing that question to me. I can assure the hon. member that we are doing our best to protect Canadian citizens in a trying situation.

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC SERVANTS USING NON-CANADIAN
PASSPORTS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime

Oral Questions

Minister. I am not sure whether the Prime Minister listened to the earlier questions; however, I am addressing my question to him in his capacity as Prime Minister and as chairman of the cabinet committee on security and intelligence. Will the Prime Minister tell us whether it is the policy of the government to allow federal public servants and employees of Crown corporations, as well as employees of industries with defence contracts, to travel to eastern Europe not using their Canadian passports, because presumably they are all Canadians, but passports issued by a communist country which declare them to be citizens of that country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The hon. member is right. I had not been listening to the previous questions. I will look into the matter.

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF TRAVELLING WITH
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN PASSPORTS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): If the Prime Minister was not listening, I will direct my supplementary question to the Solicitor General. I am wondering whether he is aware of these practices and whether he considers such behaviour compatible with continuing employment in these sensitive positions? Finally, does the Solicitor General intend to make it clear, for the benefit of those who may be tempted to submit to the Czechoslovak regime's blackmail, that they may be undermining the sovereignty of this country, and the Public Service Employment Act, and also running the risk of contravention of Section 3 of the Official Secrets Act?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, obviously we maintain in the security service a continuing interest in the national security question that the hon. member has raised. I am aware of particular cases where Canadians of dual nationality have been pressured by foreign governments in one way or another. I take this opportunity to indicate to hon. members, as I have in the past outside this House, that the Canadian government does take an interest with regard to that problem.

I would hope that any holders of Canadian citizenship papers or passports who are also holders of passports of eastern European countries or other countries would want to bring to the attention of the government any kind of pressure that is being exerted on them by agents of foreign governments.

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THE BUDGET

REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The minister will be aware that as the details of his budget become known and understood by Canadians, it will result in growing confusion and a growing negative response. If the minister has confidence in his budget, as he says he does, would he be prepared to refer the budget immediately to the Standing