

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Here are the facts concerning the case of John Thomadakis.

Thomadakis is a citizen of Greece who was engaged as a shipmate in the United States, on January 1962, and who jumped his ship in Montreal on June 6, 1962.

He succeeded in escaping the searching efforts of immigration officers until March 3, 1964, when he was arrested in Toronto.

An investigation was held the next day under the Immigration Act. Contrary to some reports, Thomadakis was made aware of the purpose of the investigation and he admitted that he understood why the investigation was held. A Greek female interpreter was present and Thomadakis said he was certain she had the necessary qualifications to interpret his statements. He was informed of his right to be represented by a lawyer of his choice, and he stated under oath that he did not want to be represented.

The facts brought out at the investigation established that Thomadakis had entered Canada by avoiding the examination and that having come to Canada as crew member, he stayed here after the ship on which he had come went away. The special investigator then ordered his deportation, as required by the act.

Although Thomadakis stated that he did not wish to exercise his right of appeal, a stenographic copy of the evidence was sent to the headquarters of the immigration branch. The case was studied again in Ottawa and the deportation order was confirmed. Thomadakis was informed by letter, under date of March 18, that he would be deported to Greece as soon as it would be feasible.

Since Thomadakis had nothing to prove that he was a Greek citizen, steps were taken to get the document needed for the trip and arrangements were made for the trip.

Before those arrangements could be completed, however, Thomadakis had an interview with the R.C.M.P. They informed him that he would be charged with illegal entry into Canada and he received formal notification from them. Once again a competent interpreter was present and Thomadakis admitted that the statement read to him in Greek was accurate.

Thomadakis was served a summons on April 9, 1964, and on April 10 he was charged by the police with illegal entry into Canada. He was found guilty in magistrate's court in Toronto and sentenced to five months in jail.

Hon. members will notice that in that case appropriate legal action was taken by the immigration authorities within 24 hours

of Thomadakis' arrest, that a competent interpreter was provided, that his right to be represented by counsel was clearly explained to him and that he was given the opportunity to appeal the decision of the special investigator. In my opinion, no justifiable criticism can be made concerning the handling of the case, and there have been no undue delays with respect to arrangements for deportation.

However, by entering Canada illegally, Thomadakis was not only liable to deportation; he had committed a felony. He was liable to prosecution in that respect as for any offence against the law of Canada. At present he is serving the sentence imposed by the court and will be deported upon his release from jail.

I could add that a certain number of prisoners in the Don jail have been convicted by a competent court for crimes they have committed and that they will be deported from Canada when they have served their sentence.

[Text]

**Mr. Orlikow:** May I ask a supplementary question. Will the minister investigate Mr. Thomadakis' complaint that he was told by immigration officials that he could have counsel, but if he did he would certainly be charged and tried for breaking the law, while if he did not bother to get counsel he would probably be deported immediately?

[Translation]

**Mr. Tremblay:** Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice.

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Trinity-Conception.

[Translation]

**Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Could the minister give us as soon as possible the names of the other persons detained pending deportation? Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration could answer my question.

**Mr. Tremblay:** Mr. Speaker, I think that this question should be put on the order paper.

[Text]

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

### ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.—STEPS TO SETTLE LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Will the minister inform the house the present