

Oral Questions

is on the basis of his own judgment rather than any recent representations from us.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, the United States is ignoring our requests as well as the first report of the IJC, proceeding with more funds for the project which will affect Manitoba waters. Can the minister not make some kind of representation which will show that they are acting in very bad faith by allotting more funds at this time? They know this project will affect Manitoba waters.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to agree with the hon. member that our representations are being ignored. The House will recall that President Carter unequivocally withdrew the administration's support. As is often the case in the United States, Congress has moved to restore certain of those expenditures, not all of them. I repeat that the President's position remains what it was when he gave the information to our Prime Minister in February. While I would be very pleased to reiterate and call to the attention of the United States administration the position of the government of Canada, just as we in this House might very well be offended, I do not think it is appropriate for us to make representations to the United States Congress.

HELSINKI REVIEW CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE—SUGGESTION
HUMAN RIGHTS BE ON AGENDA

Hon. Robert Stanbury (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I think all members will welcome the decision by the Commonwealth Prime Ministers to issue a denunciation of the breaches of human rights in Uganda.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanbury: On this first day of the Helsinki review conference in Belgrade, is it the intention of the government to insist that the agenda of this conference not be emasculated by any attempt to remove the discussion of progress or lack thereof in the field of human rights? In particular, will the government put before this conference the experience of Canada in the field of family reunification and family visits with special reference to the fact that some 2,000 Soviet citizens are still awaiting permission to leave that country simply to visit relatives in Canada?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member and the House that our position will be, as I stated previously and reiterate now, to make the strongest possible representations at the Belgrade conference with regard to the issue of human rights as he has outlined them. I should recall for the House that the meeting beginning today is designed for agenda drafting. The substantive talks, of course, will not take place until September. In terms of the agenda, it is the instruction to

[Mr. Jamieson.]

the Canadian delegation now in Belgrade that ample room and time be afforded to the question of human rights.

QUALIFICATION ON LOAN TO PHILIPPINES THAT BREACH OF
HUMAN RIGHTS EXISTED—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On the basis of innovation with human rights, will the minister extend the congratulations of this House to the Canadian representative on the World Bank to put a qualification on a loan of money to the Philippines on the basis that a serious infraction of human rights existed in that country? Will Canada pursue this forthright policy in the future, equating human rights and whether we lend money and so on to various countries which are in breach of human rights?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of principle, I agree with the hon. member in terms of the repugnance we feel toward certain administrations. However, I wish to leave ourselves some manoeuvrability when assistance of a financial nature is designed for the very poor people of a country as opposed to supporting the administration. In principle, I have no quarrel with that view.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a correction to yesterday's *Hansard*. It was brought to light by the question of the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). It relates to my answer to the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke). I am recorded as saying:

● (1500)

I do not have the report in front of me. However, as I recall it, those individuals that were mentioned were legally landed knowing that there were royal commissions under way in Hong Kong which might result—

I do not recall my words in the House yesterday, but that clearly is wrong. Since the questions yesterday, as I have indicated to the member for Vancouver Quadra, I read the report I had at the time, and it is clear in my report and, I am sure, was clear yesterday in my answer that I said I do not have the report in front of me, but as I recall it, those individuals who were mentioned were legally landed. That is the report I had.

Later, however, in February, 1976—at the time the report was given to me and when I subsequently wrote to the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra—it was known that there were royal commissions and inquiries going on in Hong Kong which could result in reports being made against some of them, and that those reports might lead to requests for extradition. This knowledge was in a report to me in February of 1976. As the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, (Mr. Cullen) has made clear, and as the report of 1976 made clear, they were legally landed.