

IMMIGRATION

ALLEGATION OF TAX SECURITY AT TORONTO AIRPORT—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It relates to reports describing security in immigration at Toronto International Airport as shoddy and inadequate, similar to the report that the joint committee made on immigration security and that it should be beefed up. What steps are being taken to examine the allegations that have been made about the Toronto International Airport, and what corrective measures have already been put into place by the minister prior to the pre-Olympic influx?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I read the allegations in the article, and in regard to the reference to immigration, partly because it covered many facets, I think I would have to say that some of the information was apparently based on a report of some former staff or people who were understandably a bit disgruntled because they had no future there. Most of the information is really quite inaccurate.

One cannot claim any perfect screen because of the number of visitors that cross our border, and the hon. member is fully aware of that; but I am satisfied that we do have a good system there. The situation has been thoroughly checked out by my department, and while it cannot possibly be failsafe, under the circumstances I am satisfied it is reasonably good. We are constantly looking at ways of improving it.

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● (1500)

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ADEQUACY OF TRAINING AND NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL
DOING SECURITY WORKS AT AIRPORTS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question, emanating from the same report, to the Solicitor General. Is he satisfied that RCMP personnel at the Toronto and other international airports, who have had only very limited training, are sufficiently trained and sufficiently numerous to handle the increasing numbers of passengers we can expect during the Olympic? Is security satisfactory to his way of thinking?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that they are properly trained but I would have to look into the question of whether we have sufficient numbers. I have not been briefed on that recently but I will inquire. You are talking about Toronto?

Mr. Epp: All international airports.

Mr. Allmand: All international airports; I will check on that.

Privilege—Mr. Yewchuk

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. YEWCHUK—POSITION OF MEDICAL DOCTORS WHO ARE
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SITTING ON HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A few days ago the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) raised a question of privilege in respect of which several members made contributions. It has been indicated that the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. Holt) would like to reply.

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, on April 1 in this House, as reported at page 12358 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) demanded that I apologize for what he described as an attempt:

—to impute motives to certain Conservative members of parliament by implying that they had a particular pecuniary self-interest to protect, thereby attempting to undermine their credibility as members of parliament and prejudice their right to speak freely in accordance with their conscience before the standing committee.

Those were the words and interpretation of the hon. member for Athabasca, Mr. Speaker. They were not my words.

He demanded an apology in respect of two matters that do not relate to anything I said or did. His first was based on his own misinterpretation of what I said, and the second in respect of a CTV program in which I was neither involved nor did I inspire, by Eric Malling, a reporter I did not know until just yesterday.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Holt: I met him because the hon. member raised this point. I regret that I missed the exchange which occurred here last Thursday, Mr. Speaker. But even more, I regret that the important business of the nation was once more interrupted by the opposition for what, if all the facts had been told, is a picayune matter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Nobody believes you.

Mrs. Holt: Why are you making so much noise? Are you scared?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Holt: I regret that the debate here was blown out of all proportion by an incomplete and, what I consider to be, a misleading report surrounding comments with which I introduced my questioning of the Canadian Medical Association in the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, on March 25.

Incidentally the statute of limitations must enter this as it has taken the hon. member a long time to find out he was hurt. However, I feel an answer is expected of me and I might say, Mr. Speaker, that if my ego were delicate, and if I put my ego above the affairs and problems of Canada, I would stand here and demand three apologies, one for the suggestion by the hon. members who sat opposite me at the committee table that because we had no doctors on the