

Chinese Immigrants Status

mitting immigration offences prior to September 1, 1964 who wish to regularize their status in Canada, but a date to conclude receipt of such statements must be determined before too long. Appropriate notice will be given when such a termination date is decided upon.

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to hear the statement of the minister as it applies to the people concerned. We were surprised, of course, by the announcement that was made by the Postmaster General in Vancouver some time prior to this statement this morning, as reported by the Canadian Press in yesterday's *Ottawa Citizen*. The statement made by the Postmaster General in Vancouver is reported in this dispatch in part as follows:

This means that even "ship-jumping sailors or those who came in with forged passports or other means" will be granted amnesty if they step forward and declare their status—

I am wondering whether this will apply to other nationalities, particularly in the case of people who have made application for Canadian citizenship and who are in the country on non-permanent visas, against whom orders to return to their native lands have been registered. Will this include that group of people, or how far is this going to extend?

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to commend the minister for the statement he has made with regard to the amnesty being extended beyond September 1. I agree with the minister, and I think the proposal he has outlined is the most satisfactory way to handle the situation. I should like to express the hope, however, that when the minister decides to terminate this arrangement and set a deadline there will be at least a month or six weeks' notice given so we will not have a rush at the last minute, or people claiming they were not informed of the fact that there was a cut-off date. Perhaps if notice were given 30 days ahead of the actual deadline it would be most helpful.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the point just raised I should like to say that in fact there was no announcement or statement made by the Postmaster General in Vancouver. Since I was going to be in Vancouver for our summer vacation over the Labour day week end, and having received a number of telephone calls, telegrams and inquiries as to the significance of the statement made by my colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration on

[Mr. Tremblay.]

August 19, I agreed to meet while in Vancouver with representatives of the Chinese Canadian community and more particularly with the Chinese language press on Saturday afternoon of last week to answer any questions they might wish to put to me arising out of the minister's statement of August 19. This I did, and the question about ship jumpers came up during the discussion.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, I have a further question for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. I am sure all of us were interested in his statement this morning regarding the granting of a general amnesty to the Chinese. The hon. member for Grey-Bruce posed a direct question to the minister with regard to those of other nationalities who may be in this country under similar circumstances, and the minister has not answered that question. Will a general amnesty be granted to other nationals who are in this country under the same conditions as the Chinese?

[Translation]

Mr. Tremblay: Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the decision of the government was not to extend the amnesty period, since this tolerance policy had been established under the previous government. This amnesty period only applied to people who came to Canada prior to 1960. In any case, the extension of this amnesty period or tolerance, as it is called, had been decided upon by successive ministers under the former government, including Mr. Bell, and was continued under the present Liberal government by Hon. Mr. Favreau and myself, and September 1, 1964, marked the end of that tolerance period. Consequently, this government did not take any step or decision to extend the amnesty period in the case of Chinese, since the amnesty was already in existence prior to 1960 and, in any case, a tolerance existed under the former government as well as under this government. This period of amnesty ended on September 1, 1964.

To give a more direct answer to the hon. member, I will say that the government has no intention to extend to other groups in Canada the policy applied to the Chinese under the former government.

[Text]

[Later:]

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I have a question for the Minister of Citizen-