

Oral Questions

to do to attract new investment to British Columbia, western Canada, and the maritime provinces—

Mr. Speaker: With respect, this is becoming too long.

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REFUGEES

IMMIGRATION APPEAL BOARD PRACTICES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Immigration. The Minister knows that the Supreme Court has ordered that only those who have heard a refugee's claim directly have the right to decide whether that person is a refugee and deserves Canada's protection. Why has the Minister continued to permit members of the Immigration Appeal Board to decide, in some cases, refugee claims which they have not heard?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, in terms of the refugee procedures, the Hon. Member knows that the responsibility to hear those claims in the first instance lies with the refugee appeal mechanism and the Immigration Appeal Board's responsibility is to deal with appeals only.

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): That was not the question I asked, Mr. Speaker. The Immigration Appeal Board by law is required to hear the complainant. The Minister knows that the Chairman of the Immigration Appeal Board distributed a memo saying that the Board was not to make a decision when it heard the case but to refer it to a meeting with other board members. Will the Minister now order a judicial inquiry into this illegal activity of the Immigration Appeal Board?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is raising an issue brought to public attention by certain dissatisfied lawyers in the Toronto area over the objection, I might say, of the Toronto bar.

Mr. Crosbie: Lawyer lover.

● (1500)

Mr. McLean: The Hon. Member should know that the chairman of the IAB is meeting with the Toronto Bar later this week and that a number of the issues which were raised have already been resolved. It would not be appropriate at this time for me to intervene in that situation.

REPORTED ABUSES AT TORONTO PORT OF ENTRY

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of State for Immigration. It concerns the recent abuses of refugee claims in the Metropolitan Toronto area which have been highlighting the very serious flaws in Canada's immigration policy.

Could the Minister tell the House what measures he has taken to ensure that this kind of abuse does not happen again?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for her question. The matter of abuse at a number of ports of entry has been brought to my attention, not only by members of the public but by herself and by a number of other Members of the House. The procedures at present jeopardize many bona fide refugees. At the moment we are proceeding to bring legislation before the House in order to deal with the current situation. In the interim, I have appealed to churches, concerned groups, and others to bring the cases of flagrant abuse, particularly those who are counselling fraudulent activity, to the attention of my officials, particularly in the Toronto area.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of 29, presented by Hon. Members on Friday, December 20, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form. Certain petitions presented by Hon. Members do not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mrs. Bertrand), by filing with the Clerk of the House on Friday, December 20, 1985, do not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form. The petition presented by the Hon. Member for London West (Mr. Hockin), by filing with the Clerk of the House on Monday, January 13, 1986, also does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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POINTS OF ORDER

RECOGNITION OF BACK-BENCHERS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order as opposed to a question of privilege, because I do not want to abuse what may or may not be a privilege in the House. In Question Period today I attempted to pose a supplementary question, and I was disallowed. I have discussed this situation very briefly with you, Sir, and I would ask you, in the true spirit of reform of Parliament which is evolving to enhance the role of the private Member, particularly those of us on the Government back-benches, to give more consideration to allowing us to ask supplementary questions in Question Period, in order to allow us to represent more effectively the concerns and issues of our constituents.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member knows that he is not raising a point of order but is making a point in which, I take