

*Supply*

● (2200)

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, the actual survey of the volumes going through the ports of entry on the west coast has now been completed. Those numbers are now being analysed and based upon that analysis we will make recommendations to the Treasury Board. There are a number of steps that have to be taken. I am sure the hon. member knows, as well as I do, the variety of steps through the Public Service Commission which must be properly and carefully followed so as not to make any mistakes. The first round of analysis has been done and we will be making those submissions.

**Mr. Friesen:** I would simply like to ask the minister why was it so much easier to go through the machinery for those immigration officers in Malton and at Dorval without having to wait so long? If you are going to promote on the basis of workload and responsibility, would it not have been right and fair to examine all of the offices across Canada and give all of the PM-1s a promotion to PM-2 based on the kind of workload they are faced with? Why was there a discrepancy in the first place?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, the survey analyses of volumes at the ports of entry are done on a two-year cycle. The last survey done two years ago clearly demonstrated a substantial difference in the Malton and Dorval airports compared to those on the west coast and other ports of entry. The second cycle of survey analysis has been completed on a national basis. It is our expectation it will show the volume has substantially increased at the west coast ports of entry and based upon that analysis we will then make recommendations to Treasury Board to change the classification and the salary rankings of the officers working there. That is the reason there was a distinction. The other two posts were administered based upon the analysis done two years ago.

**Mr. Friesen:** If this is now based on volume, can I have the assurance the issue will be settled long before April, 1982?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Yes.

**Mr. Friesen:** It will be. When the minister stands up to answer, could he give me an indication of the target date when this is going to be settled and whether this is going to take care of all of the immigration officers at Douglas-Pacific, at the Vancouver international airport, at the various other immigration offices, the offices of the professional people downtown, as well as the new immigration office which is going to be in Surrey? In other words, is it going to be across-the-board to all the officers who are deserving?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, it would be my hope to have that re-evaluation of all the ports of entry completed and the submissions made within a matter of three or four months and the results will be known then. I will make sure the member gets the results for the Douglas port of entry at that time.

**Mr. Friesen:** I take it, then, if you have the results in three or four months, that the new salary schedules could be opera-

tive within the next six or eight months, certainly before the end of 1981, and that would have been passed by Treasury Board at that time.

I should like to move to another question which apparently came up some hours ago when the minister, in answer to a question of another hon. member, referred to the Buffalo shuffle. My understanding of what he is saying is that somebody who is here on a visitor's visa, let us say relatives of Canadian citizens, can go down to Buffalo and be deemed to be residents in the United States, process their papers and come to Canada by that direction. Is that true or am I misunderstanding?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, it is not a blanket exception. We would still expect the large proportion of those who apply to do so from their country of origin. Only in cases considered to be of national interest or where there is a very strict requirement would we work on an individual basis. It may be that because of illness or let us say, reasons of compassion, such an arrangement would be made. It would be monitored very carefully. The decision would be made at the national headquarters and there would not be blanket coverage. The normal procedures would still apply. That is the basis upon which we negotiated with the Americans.

Frankly, there was a tendency in the last two or three years to abuse that reciprocity agreement. That is why the Americans and ourselves ceased to use it for a period of time. I met with the American officials in Washington last spring to discuss the matter with them and with the assistant secretary of state responsible for visas. We thought there could be proper arrangements which would be very carefully controlled. My officials negotiated that kind of agreement and it is just being finalized. The actual terms of the agreement will be available to members of the House.

**Mr. Friesen:** Mr. Chairman, I want the minister to know I am not trying to promote that kind of a scheme. I believe in the policy under which intending immigrants apply from their own countries wherever possible. If that scheme is to be the policy of the department then surely it is not only Buffalo but also Seattle, for example, Fargo and all of these other cities. It is going to be a principle across northern United States.

**Mr. Axworthy:** A U.S.-Canadian agreement.

**Mr. Friesen:** A U.S.-Canadian agreement. Okay. I have another series of questions which are of great concern to me. As the minister knows, I have a lot of immigrants coming to my constituency. He may be curious to know that between the May and February elections the voters' list in my riding increased by 6,000 so there is a fair movement into my constituency. I spend a lot of time intervening on behalf of those who have applied for sponsorships under the various categories of the act. I am very concerned about the great disparity in the processing of applications. I have, at present, 20 active cases on file in my office and 14 of these have had serious problems in processing; not simply routine, but serious problems. Immigrants come to me wondering if there are