

The hon. member said that on no less than five or six occasions I indicated it was all right for them to be here. Now they are seeking landed immigrant status. Because they are seeking that new status, I thought it was appropriate to check it out. That is exactly what is being done. It is not as though they are going through some tribunal. In fact, this is an organization which is in a position to help me determine what weight should be given to the evidence advanced.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I find this whole procedure quite offensive. I find it a denial of natural justice because we are talking about a procedure at trial wherein people have no opportunity to rebut false, incomplete or wrong allegations.

Is there no procedure whatsoever whereby these people can give their side of the story, which I believe is equally important, in order that the minister will have all the facts, rather than just some of them, to come to a truthful determination about this matter? Does the minister not think that suggestion warrants very serious consideration?

● (1500)

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is going to put this couple in a unique position that is not available to anybody else without residence in this particular country, suggesting that everyone who goes through this procedure, be they abroad or in Canada, should have this particular access. I do not think that is appropriate.

I have an obligation to protect the security of this country. I have received representations and I want to know what weight to give this particular evidence. I have put it before a security board composed of three gentlemen of unquestioned reputation to help me determine what weight should be given to the evidence that has been advanced. This is one of the fairest systems available.

An hon. Member: Nonsense: what about Chile?

Mr. Cullen: The hon. member over there screams about Chile. I would remind him that we took 7,000 refugees from Chile.

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INCOME TAX

POSSIBLE ATTACHMENT OF CHILD TAX CREDIT TO REDUCE ARREARS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Hare (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Small Business). In view of the position of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, that the \$200 child tax credit cannot be attached for back rent by the Winnipeg Housing Authority, which is 75 per cent funded by the federal government, will the Minister of National Revenue take the position that the \$200 child tax credit cannot be attached for income taxes owed to his department by taxpayers who are in arrears?

Time Allocation

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Small Business)): Mr. Speaker, in terms of the 1978 income tax year, I have no discretion whatever. Any tax owing is deducted from any refund. In years previous to that I do have discretion and I have indicated the intent to exercise that discretion in favour of the taxpayer.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. NIELSEN—REQUEST FOR EXPANDED REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very brief point of order and I direct it to the government House leader. I have asked him about this several times in the past. I refer to the unanimous vote of this House and a reference to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, in an expanded way, of the reconstitution of the subcommittee on penitentiaries. I noted that the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais) was in his seat a moment ago. I wonder if he has succeeded in tracking down this elusive gentleman in order to give me an answer on the re-establishment of that subcommittee?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have had a discussion with the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais) and we both agree that it would be appropriate to have a reference provided to the committee in accordance with the expression of opinion of the House of Commons.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Second report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Kaplan.

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[Translation]

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-52, to amend the Financial Administration Act (garnishment and attachment).

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.