

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I will answer the hon. member for Spadina as well as I can. I think I have about three minutes left in my voice so I will eke out the last words. His question of landing permits sounds like a "Catch 22" problem which sometimes arises. I would ask the hon. member to speak to me privately, to outline the details. There should be no reason for such a delay. If there is a reason, we will find it out and if it is some quirk in the procedures, then the task force can straighten it out.

On the question of additional staff for our offices overseas, the hon. member knows that there has been an integration of the foreign service, External Affairs and Trade and Commerce. But the decisions on local staff lie with my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and I would certainly be glad to carry the hon. member's representations to him.

On the question of family businesses, a directive was issued in September, modifying the requirements of family business applications. Where there are positions of trust, then the normal regulations should be waived. These directives have gone out to all the offices and posts and should be in effect. It may take a while for the momentum and the routine to change, but all our immigration offices should not have this directive which should provide for a greater ease of movement in that particular class. I will gladly send a copy of those directives to the hon. member.

In the two minutes that are left I will simply say that after the 15 hours of estimates I feel the same as I did the first time I entered a marathon race. Once I got into it, I realized I would not win but that I had to finish!

Supply

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I am about finished.

I would like to thank the officials from my staff and from the department who have stood by me all this time. We in this House are sometimes guilty of making disparaging remarks about the Public Service of Canada. For sheer effort and assistance the officials of the department and my staff are owed my gratitude. They have been a great help to me during this time.

I would also like to thank members of the committee on both sides. This has been a good experience—not one that I should like to repeat soon, of course. Their questions and comments have been very helpful to me in the operation of this department and I am sure that I will be the one to benefit most from this experience. I hope we have been able to supply the answers that will enable members to better understand the workings of what I consider to be a very important department of government, one that deals with people. I would never say that we always make the right judgments but we try to make good judgments. That is the standard I use.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Progress reported.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It being midnight, this House stands adjourned until two o'clock today.

At 12.02 a.m. the House adjourned without question put pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).
