

**Mr. Gillies:** Is it the position of the minister, therefore, that he can do nothing to control inflation through fiscal policy, just as he can do nothing—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is hardly a supplementary question. It is argumentative and a question asked in those terms is not in order.

[Later:]

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance which is based on the original question asked by the hon. member for Don Valley. On October 11 the Governor of the Bank of Canada stated that economic growth is largely responsible for inflation. Is the minister in agreement with this statement? If so, are his present policies and practices being based on it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question can be asked directly without asking the minister whether he is in agreement with a statement made in other circumstances. A question asked in such terms is irregular.

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### IMMIGRATION

#### ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM—POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF OCTOBER 15 DEADLINE—GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TOWARD THOSE WHO FAIL TO REGISTER

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, may I address a couple of questions to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Can the minister advise the House and the country as to how long he intends to assess the situation respecting the regularization of status legislation, and when does he intend to advise the country whether the October 15 deadline is final?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is only common sense and practical to wait at least until all the figures on the program are in before making a judgment whether we do have some firm evidence that there are many people whom the program has not reached. I would be interested in the hon. member's reaction when he assesses the program as well.

**Mr. Alexander:** I suggest that the members of the Conservative Party have been very co-operative in this serious matter. I should like to ask the minister what he intends to do with those illegal immigrants who do not register by midnight, October 15? How does he intend to ferret them out and what are his intentions in terms of dealing with them, keeping in mind there has been some suggestion that perhaps there is a witch hunt in the making?

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, the use of the expression "witch hunt" came from sources that I cannot identify and I repudiate it totally. We said, and I think all hon. members agreed, when we dealt with Bill C-197 that once the program is over the law as it stands will apply. We do not intend to beef up our enforcement provisions and go on a witch hunt, but we do intend, when the presence of illegal

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immigrants in this country is brought to our attention, to apply the law as it now stands.

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### TRANSPORT

#### NEWFOUNDLAND AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FERRY SERVICES—POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF CROWN CORPORATION TO OPERATE—EFFORTS TO CLEAR BACKLOG OF FREIGHT AT NORTH SYDNEY

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the statement made by the minister on Friday last regarding the Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ferry services, is it the intention of the government to establish a Crown corporation to discharge the government's constitutional responsibility to provide continuous ferry services to these two provinces? May I also ask what efforts the government is making to clear up the backlog on the North Sydney to Newfoundland ferry route as a consequence of the rail strike?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as I have already announced we have restructured the administration of ferry services in the Atlantic provinces. I made this announcement a few days ago. There will be a separate administration presided over by Mr. Tingley of Newfoundland, with sub-units in P.E.I., Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. We hope that under this new formula there will be a more efficient service. This administration will be able to plan for the future, will make recommendations, and will not be all mixed up in the administration of the CNR.

With regard to the second part of the question, we are making an all-out effort to get rid of the backlog. There are about 20 vessels travelling from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland. At the peak on September 24, 937 cars were backlogged. The number is now down to 702 cars. Progress is being made very rapidly and we hope within a few weeks to get rid of the remaining backlog.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FERRY SERVICES—POSSIBLE FREEDOM FROM TIE-UPS AS RESULT OF LABOUR DISPUTES

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary question may I ask the minister whether the new administration announced in the minister's release concerning ferry services within the CNR means that these services will no longer be subject to labour disputes within the railway and that the minister can now guarantee that the services will never again be disrupted?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** No, Mr. Speaker, it does not mean that. I think if we are to remove the right to strike on the part of workers the question will have to be discussed in the House, when I presume many members will have something to say about it.