

*Inquiries of the Ministry***IMMIGRATION****BERTRAM PETERSON—REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO REMAIN IN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Pennell:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to confine the imposition of the death penalty in relation to murder to the murder of police officers and prison guards for an experimental period of five years. The bill also proposes that a person in respect of whom the sentence of death has been commuted to life imprisonment, or a person upon whom the sentence of life imprisonment as the minimum punishment has been imposed, shall not be released without the prior approval of the governor in council.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**NATURAL GAS****REQUEST FOR POLICY STATEMENT ON EXPORTS TO U.S.**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the direct challenge by the United States federal power commission to the principles of the National Energy Board Act and the recommendation of the Borden royal commission that we should not subsidize United States consumers of gas at the expense of Canadians, will the government make a statement of policy before the National Energy Board opens hearings next Tuesday on the new application of Westcoast Transmission Company for the export of additional natural gas to the United States?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I may be wrong but I think the Westcoast case is already before the National Energy Board. However, may I take notice of the question and answer it more properly tomorrow.

**Mr. Hamilton:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the urgency of the question, the hearing being next Tuesday, it is essential that we in this house know whether the laws of Canada are going to be followed during the course of that hearing. I think we should have a statement from the minister at the earliest possible moment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Pepin:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I think I should say it is the very function of the National Energy Board to apply the laws of Canada.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister of immigration what decision he has reached in the case of Mr. Bertram Peterson. Has the minister decided to allow him to remain in Canada in view of the fact that he has a sponsor, that he has the opportunity for employment, and that to deport him would likely bring upon him serious penalties when he returns to his own country?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to the hon. member and to the minister that the question has been answered, at least in part. Since there has been some objection and there is tacit agreement to the suggestion of the Chair that the question should be answered in a special way, I doubt whether the minister should be allowed to go into the matter further at this moment.

**Mr. Douglas:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not often differ with Your Honour but I wish to point out that I asked a question on October 11; I repeated the question yesterday, and the house has a right to know—it need not necessarily know the details—whether this man will be granted permission to stay in Canada or whether he will be deported. That is all I am asking the minister. I do not wish him to make a lengthy statement; he can make that statement elsewhere on some other occasion. Surely the rules of the house permit the minister to answer a simple question about whether this man is to be allowed to remain in Canada.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not sure whether part of the minister's answer contained the information the hon. member is now seeking. If it did not contain that information I shall allow the minister to answer that part of the question.

**Mr. Marchand:** Mr. Speaker, at this moment I cannot answer that question because this man has a right of appeal to the appeal board. In the meantime he will be allowed to stay in Canada and work. For the hon. member's information, the department will not oppose this man's application and the humanitarian reasons he put forward in order to stay here in Canada.