

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

radar systems. The use of helicopters is now associated with some of the ships and that is a program which was initiated before the minister became the Minister of National Defence.

In view of all these facts it is nonsense to say that the effectiveness of the navy is anything like it was before the minister was sworn in. I do not think there is a naval man in this country or anywhere in the world who would not agree with that statement.

Mr. Chairman, I see that it is ten o'clock.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

• (10:00 p.m.)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

IMMIGRATION—REPORTED INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS FROM RUMANIA

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I raised a question on Tuesday afternoon that I felt was of some concern. I have received representations on this matter since the election and I know that the question of the situation in eastern Europe has been eloquently dealt with in this house by a previous speaker. This matter was brought to my mind by an article which appeared in a magazine called *The Tablet* entitled "Hungarians in Transylvania." This article was written by Judith Listowel and appeared in the January 8 edition of this magazine. It was the second of two articles. Dealing with the situation of this minority group in Rumania the article contains the following passage:

"Now there are rumours of a mass emigration to Canada. Thousands of Hungarian peasants have put their names down, for they do not see any future for their children here. I do not know whether they will actually receive their emigration passports, or whether this is just a hoax, but I rather think that they might, for if they go their places can be taken by more and more settlers from Old Rumania, and gradually the Hungarian character of Transylvania will be wiped out."

It was this article that prompted my question to the minister in charge of immigration and I asked whether there had been an unusual number of applications received this year from potential emigrants from that country. I should like to ask a further question, whether the ministry has been at all aware of the situation suggested in this article, namely that people in a foreign country

[Mr. Harkness.]

may be the victims of a very elaborate hoax with regard to the possibility of their emigrating to Canada.

Mr. J. C. Munro (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the minister I have noted the remarks of the hon. member. I sympathize with his interest in this question of the Hungarian situation in Transylvania and I know how concerned are many Canadians of Hungarian descent about the fact that their populace in Transylvania seem to be somewhat victimized by the regime there, and because many of their relatives are most unhappy in that country.

I think the situation does call for an investigation by the immigration department. I am not in a position to give the hon. member any particulars as to what has been done with reference to this matter or the situation at this time. All I can give him is the assurance that the minister will look into this question and try to have a report for him in the very near future.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—STEPS TO OVERCOME LOSS ON SECOND CLASS MAIL

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo South): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I directed a question to the Postmaster General. The question resulted from a recommendation made in the report of the Auditor General to the House of Commons, in which he said that early consideration should be given to ways and means of covering the loss sustained by the Post Office Department in the handling of second class mail. I think this is a matter of considerable urgency, since this is not the first time the Auditor General has made this request to the Postmaster General.

In his report of last year, page 704, he pointed out that a loss had been sustained of \$35 million as a result of the handling of second class mail by the Post Office Department. This sad history of losses in connection with second class mail goes back a long time. Of course I recognize that since the minister is new in his job he should not be held accountable for the serious errors and omissions of his predecessors. I suggest to the minister however, he now has an opportunity to become a hero by doing the kind of thing that should have been done a long time ago. I think it is time to plug this leak of the taxpayer's dollar. I think it is time to raise second class postage rates in this country to overcome that deficit of the Post Office Department.