

*Oral Questions**[English]***ANTUN KIKAS**

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has stated that her government is urging the Yugoslav army to end its use of what she calls "excessive force" in the conflict in Croatia. By this statement the minister implies that she accepts the role of the Yugoslav army but just thinks it should be limited.

The Yugoslav army, acting without legitimate political or democratic control, has bombed civilian targets and taken offensive and brutal actions that totally belie its claims to neutrality. These actions deserve the condemnation of this government.

Many Canadians are also deeply concerned about the welfare of Mr. Antun Kikas, a Canadian citizen recently captured by Yugoslav forces and reportedly tortured while in detainment. Mr. Kikas' circumstances are rife with rumour and uncertainty. Canadians who know Antun Kikas are anxiously awaiting a statement from the minister with regard to his current status and whether any steps have been taken by this government to safeguard his health, dignity and human rights.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, the major national event of yesterday was a magnanimous victory for the Canadian taxpayer. The fact that the Public Service Alliance has agreed to return to work without preconditions except for the absolute understanding that a wage settlement will not vary from the zero, three, three formula is great news for the nation's economy.

That may appear to be a tough position on the part of the government; that is because it is a tough position. However, when balanced against the one example of 150,000 prairie farmers who will be suffering economic decline for more than a decade—many have had to abandon their farms—it would be unreasonable for the government to assure absolute job security and increased salaries for about the same number of federal public servants, when the only method of payment is higher taxes or a larger debt.

Public servants ought not to be a class immune to the realities of the world. Yesterday was a great victory for government. It was a victory in the battle against deficit spending. It was a victory for the taxpayers. A win is registered for the taxpayers in Canada. Clearly from that will flow a victory for the Public Service itself.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD*[Translation]***CANADIAN PASSPORT**

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Canadians realize how important a passport is.

When new Canadians receive their passports, it is probably the greatest event of their lives. Today, however, this document is also coveted by drug traffickers and fugitives of every kind.

I wonder whether the Prime Minister could tell us when his government became aware of this disastrous situation and what it intends to do about it.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are well aware of the passport problem.

A Canadian passport is coveted the world over, and the problem is that it is a very popular item with thieves and people of that ilk.

[English]

I want to point out to the hon. member and Leader of the Opposition that security is a crucial element in the development of our passport policies. We try to provide good service for those who require passports. We issue 1.2 million passports a year. We are very concerned by the allegations about the Canadian passport and we are investigating them.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Prime Minister if he will answer some of these questions.