

*Inquiries of the Ministry***IMMIGRATION ACT****REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES AND EFFECT ON APPEAL BACKLOG**

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, in view of press statements in recent days regarding proposed changes to the Immigration Act, would the minister inform the House what those changes are and whether in any way they will affect the backlog of cases before the Immigration appeal Board?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the changes to the act are very comprehensive and too detailed to explain to the House now. Certainly they will have a position effect on reducing the causes that led to this backlog in appeals. In other words, when the new act is before us in the fall it will have a positive effect in this area.

SUGGESTED PLACING OF IMMIGRATION UNDER SEPARATE MINISTRY

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the present confusion in the department in regard to Immigration, is the government considering separating immigration from manpower and placing it under a full-time ministry?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member, I am sure, appreciates that a question asked in those terms is not in order. The second part of the question might be in order, but I see no point in allowing a question to be asked in those terms. The hon. member might like to rephrase the question.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the Prime Minister is this: Is the government considering separating immigration from manpower and placing it under a full-time ministry?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at this time we are not contemplating any new administrative arrangement concerning that department.

* * *

CRIMINAL CODE**ABORTION—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO PROTECT NURSES AND OTHER HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES NOT WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATIONS**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the difficulty experienced by some nurses and other hospital employees who do not wish to participate in performing abortions, can the minister inform the House whether he intends to introduce any legislation that would adequately protect the position of such employees?

• (1450)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, there is no present intention to introduce any changes in

the law. The relationships of nurses to hospitals and their general employment relationships would, of course, ordinarily fall within provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as this does involve federal law, could the minister indicate if his department is considering legislation on the matter?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, the problem to which the hon. member has specifically referred is rather more within provincial jurisdiction than within ours. I am not sure any of his colleagues would go along with him in trying to solve the problem through the federal field.

* * *

AGRICULTURE**POTATOES—EXTENSION OF DIVERSION PROGRAM—ADEQUACY TO STRENGTHEN MARKET**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the welcome announcement he made recently that the diversion program for potatoes in New Brunswick was being extended. Is it estimated that this extension will meet the requests of the five potato organizations which forwarded their representations to him recently through the Minister of Agriculture of Prince Edward Island to an extent that will strengthen the market?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this action has already had some influence in strengthening the market in the days since the extension was announced. At this point we cannot say precisely how much diversion will take place, but certainly it will be up to the maximum capability of the starch plants to receive and process potatoes for the time involved.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM WAR—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON EVACUATION OF CANADIANS FROM NORTH VIET NAM AND ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he now advise if he has any information on the evacuation of any Canadian nationals from North Viet Nam since the escalation of the war, and also can he advise if personnel of the ICC in the area are performing any duties or functions, or if in fact there are any personnel in the area?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I had better make inquiries before I answer that question in order to make sure that my information is fully up to date.