

Oral Questions
GRAIN ELEVATORS

Question No. 971—**Mr. Korchinski:**

1. In the past five years, in each province (a) how many grain elevators were operating (b) what was the total capacity of the elevator space?
2. In the past five years, how many delivery points no longer have elevators operating?

Return tabled.

MAINTENANCE COST OF LES ESCOUMAINS WHARF

Question No. 1,001—**Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix):**

For each of the past ten years (a) what was the maintenance cost of *les Escoumains* wharf (b) for each maintenance contract (i) who submitted tenders (ii) what was the amount of each tender?

Return tabled.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

IMMIGRATION

POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF WORK PERMITS OF PERSONS WHO HAVE APPEALED TO BOARD

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is not for the Minister of Finance but for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Would the minister advise whether the requirement effective April 1 next of work permits throughout Canada for all non-Canadians and non-landed immigrants will result in all the 10,000 or more appellants now queued up before the Immigration Appeal Board having their work permits cancelled, and is this the method designed to reduce the number of appeals?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the requirement for work permits is, I think, in line with the practices in other countries. It is intended to provide us with the opportunity to ensure that, wherever possible, Canadians are given preference where jobs are available. Where, however, there is not this conflict, people in Canada legally will be permitted, of course, to find employment.

• (1430)

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Is the minister telling the House that all those people who hitherto had work permits given to them and whose cases have been under appeal for periods of up to three or four years because of the government's indecision with regard to changes in the Immigration Appeal Board are now to be thrown on to the labour market as a result of having their work permits cancelled?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, with regard to those who had work permits as a result of having entered into an appeal before the Immigration Appeal Board, it is not our intention to cancel their work permits.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

ABILITY OF FOREIGN STUDENTS TO CONTINUE EDUCATION IN CANADA UNDER NEW WORK PERMIT POLICY

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact the government changed its regulations affecting foreign students mid-way through the academic year, thus making it extremely difficult for them to remain in Canada to continue their university education, can the minister tell the House if the government's work permit policy for foreign students will be reconsidered so that Canada's long respected leadership in the field of international education will continue?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I believe I have attempted to answer this question in previous question periods, but I will repeat to this degree. Only private foreign students are affected by this regulation. Those who came through CIDA or under exchange arrangements will not be affected. They are precisely and specifically exempted by the regulations. Private foreign students came with the full understanding, based on discussions with them at the time, that they were to be self-supporting. They will be required to seek employment visas if they are in fact seeking summer employment. Nevertheless, where such jobs exist and do not displace Canadian students, they will of course be permitted to take such employment.

RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYERS TO DETERMINE WHETHER EMPLOYEES ARE CANADIANS, LANDED IMMIGRANTS OR VISITORS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It is related to the first question asked and has to do with the employers involved. Can the minister now advise whether the onus will be on employers as of April 1 to ascertain the status of their employees and determine those who have landed status, those who are Canadians and those who are visitors and whether the former have work permits? Will the onus be on employers as of April 1 to ascertain the status?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would like to check the exact legality of that. It is my understanding the employer has a responsibility to ascertain whether the applicant is in fact a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant, in which case they do not need work permits. If they are visitors, there is an onus to find out if they have visitors' visas and employment permits.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed to ask one last supplementary after which the Chair will recognize the hon. member for York South.

Mr. Alexander: In light of the hardship that will necessarily ensue for those who are presently working, will the minister give some assurance that during his investigation he will press for non-retroactivity of this law, in other words, keeping it intact for April 1 and subsequent days, months or years as the case may be?