

*Unanswered Questions on Order Paper*

who have filed, it is possible that 16 of those signatories could be communist satellites and they could then proceed to the work which is outlined in this statute. My question therefore has to do with the time at which Canada deposits her ratification. I would hope, and I am sure the minister would agree, that the ratification would not be deposited at a time when it would embarrass the western powers.

**Mr. Martin:** My hon. friend may be assured of that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt this motion?

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall we suspend until 8.55?

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Harris:** I was going to suggest that perhaps we could suspend until five minutes to nine. I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker. I am reminded that the private bills which we passed over at five o'clock are still on the order paper, and if we had the time and the inclination now we could discuss them, although I notice that there is not a full hour left before it is expected we shall be summoned to the other place. However, I think if any hon. member feels that we ought to call them, at least this is an opportunity for them to be called.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****REQUEST FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
ON ORDER PAPER**

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to rise, if I may, in regard to certain questions on the order paper that have not been answered and, in particular, I refer to question No. 170, which was placed on the order paper on February 18 last, dealing with orders in council passed in each of the calendar years 1955 and 1956, waiving the provisions of the Immigration Act. Will the minister say whether or not that is available, because it seems a very long time to have to wait for information such as is asked for in this question. In particular will he say whether or not orders in council and permits passed or issued followed upon requests made in respect of the individual concerned by a member of parliament or the Senate of Canada, and how many of those permits were issued on the requests of members or senators? I would ask the leader of the house as to whether an answer to that question and others are available. It seems passing strange that it should have taken so long to answer so simple a question.

**Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether the answer is ready. I recall the answer given by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration the other day when he was asked about this. I speak now only from my own experience of the department but I am quite sure than when he answered it would take a great length of time to provide the answer he was telling what was of course the truth, because the numbers of orders in council which are passed covering the admission of persons under the Immigration Act, if I recall it, form a very considerable file every day when council meets, although I am not familiar with the work since I was in that department.

In so far as the inquiry as to whether these were passed at the request of a member or a senator is concerned, my own experience has been that usually before an order in council of this kind was passed more than one member and more than one senator, and probably as many as a dozen, had requested it.

**Mr. Casselman:** Why cover it up; why do you not come out with the facts?

**Mr. Harris:** Why do I not come out with the facts?

**Mr. Casselman:** Yes.

**Mr. Harris:** It is pretty hard to tell whether my hon. friend is just asking for the facts in here or whether he thinks there are some other facts that are being hidden.

**Mr. Casselman:** As a matter of fact, if you look back on these questions over the years you will find a lot of information comes out that is not very satisfactory.

**Mr. Harris:** Mr. Speaker, I shall finish by saying I shall make inquiries in the next two or three minutes. I doubt, however, whether it is ready. I do know from my own experience that it was a very rare immigration case that does not have many hon. members soliciting that action be taken on it.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Nevertheless it would be nice to have the records.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****SITTING SUSPENDED**

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall we suspend the sitting until 8.57 p.m.? Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

At 8.25 p.m. the sitting was suspended until 8.57 p.m. this day.