Inquiries of the Ministry IMMIGRATION

ADVERTISING PROGRAM IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES—ADVICE ON CANADIAN EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It arises out of the increasing number of reports that recent immigrants to this country are claiming they came here on the basis of advertisements and advice given to them at Canadian offices overseas indicating there would be ample job opportunities, that they now find themselves out of work and on welfare and that many of them are applying to go back to their own countries disillusioned and angry. Is the department continuing its advertising programs in other countries inviting people to come to this country, and are prospective immigrants being advised of the unemployment situation in Canada?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as indicated in the House some days ago, the advertising of specific job opportunities was discontinued some months ago, although the general program indicating Canada as a place welcoming immigrants does continue. It is our attempt in every case to inform prospective immigrants of the exact situation in which they might find themselves in coming to Canada. Of course, we regret very much when people do arrive and feel they have not been properly informed about the situation. We make every effort to correct that and make sure they do understand. However, there is a significant time lag between the time they discuss these matters with our officers abroad and the time they are in Canada. This can sometimes explain a difference of view about the situation which exists here. Sometimes these conditions change very rapidly.

Mr. Douglas: I want to ask the minister why his department would have an advertisement, for instance, in the Daily Express of January 14 of this year, and also one in the Daily Telegraph, telling interested persons that Canada is a land of great economic growth, with a high standard of living and excellent opportunities, when at that particular time we had over 600,000 unemployed. Is there any liaison between the two branches under the minister's responsibility, manpower and immigration, to inform immigrants of the lack of suitable employment in Canada for a great many categories?

Mr. Lang: Of course there is liaison, and of course the remarks which the hon. member quoted about Canada being a land of opportunity, of promise and of growth represent something in which not only I believe but in which this government as well as most people in Canada believe.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: As I indicated earlier, our campaign is directed to keeping the image of Canada before people because we have no doubt the economy will soon be such that we will welcome—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Laing.]

Mr. Douglas: I just want to ask the minister one question. Would he undertake that, in conveying the image of Canada to people who might consider coming to this country, he will give them the facts as well as the propaganda?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITY

WAR MEASURES ACT—COMPENSATION TO THOSE ARRESTED AND RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Justice.

In the light of the statement made recently by Mr. Louis Marceau, the ombudsman for the province of Quebec, that he would recommend payment of indemnization for several persons arrested and detained under the War Measures Act, could the hon. minister tell us whether the cabinet has already looked into the question of indemnifying some of the persons held in jail?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I should think that the recommendations of the protector of the people, Mr. Louis Marceau, would be submitted to the Attorney General of Quebec.

[English]

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Could the Minister of Justice indicate whether he or the Solicitor General has received a copy of the Marceau report, and whether any consideration has been given to participating in possible reparations to innocent persons who have suffered damages as a result either of the War Measures Act or the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I will want to read a copy of that report.

DESTRUCTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND FINGERPRINTS OF PERSONS RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Is the minister now able to answer a question that I have asked on numerous occasions, and to which allusion has been made by other hon. members, about the destruction of photographs and fingerprints? If not, could he not telephone the Minister of Justice of Quebec to get this matter cleared up?

Hon John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I am afraid I have not yet received a reply from the Attorney General of Quebec.

An hon. Member: How long, oh Lord, how long?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I intend to take up the question again.