Inquiries of the Ministry

IMMIGRATION

HONG KONG-INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN QUOTA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Has the quota of 100 refugees from communism from Hong Kong been reached, and has his department made any directions to increase this number of refugees from China and Hong Kong coming to Canada?

Hon. Richard A. Bell (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as of today 71 persons have actually arrived in Canada. That number consists of 35 individuals or family units. There are 48 additional applications involving 107 persons who have been approved for admission but have been held temporarily in Hong Kong pending completion of medical treatment for a condition which must be cleared up before the persons in question can come forward to Canada. Most, if not all, of these will be over here by the end of October. It is expected that by the middle or the end of November the 100 family units will have been completed, and at that time consideration will be given to a possible extension of the program.

PENITENTIARIES

DORCHESTER, N.B.—REPORTED UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might direct a question to the Minister of Justice, and preface it by offering him my congratulations on obtaining his new position in the cabinet. My question is based on an article in the Ottawa Citizen of yesterday, Thursday, September 27, to the effect that guards at the federal maximum security prison in Dorchester, New Brunswick, claim that conditions among the inmates there have for some time been past the breaking point. There is further reference to the need for additional security officers. I wonder if the minister would care to comment on that.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his congratulations. I have not seen the article in question, but I shall be glad to do so and investigate its contents.

GRAIN

WHEAT—REPORTED REDUCTION IN SHIPMENTS TO LAKEHEAD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if the minister

would care to comment on the drastic reduction in wheat exports to the lakehead during the present navigational season, and I would like to ask him whether we can expect an increase in exports during the balance of the season.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to see that the hon. member for Assiniboia retains his interest in the marketing of grain. I will be glad to deal with this subject on the proper occasion if the opportunity should come up.

Mr. Argue: A supplementary question. Can the minister inform the house at this time whether there is likely to be in the near future a lifting of the ban on the shipment of high grade wheat to the lakehead? This is an urgent question.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is an urgent question. At the present time we are giving preference to the movement of low grade wheat to the lakehead to meet the requirements of the domestic market of eastern Canada.

THE BUDGET

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. On what date, if we are still here, would the minister propose to introduce the budget resolutions referred to in the speech from the throne?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, so I cannot say.

AGRICULTURE

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPORTED DUMPING OF U.S. PRODUCTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him whether any action is now contemplated to stop the flood of U.S. agricultural produce into British Columbia, which is a dumping process, three weeks before the Kootenays come into production.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the hon. member has been for the last five years or he would know what this government has done about the stopping of any dumping.

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]