

Oral Questions

foreign workers, and where we are convinced that all those jobs of whatever nature pertaining to the F-18, the CL-215 or whatever, can be filled by Canadians, there is no question of authorizing foreign workers to enter this country.

[English]

REQUEST FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF CONTRACT DECISION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister tell the House whether he has looked into the matter of why Canadair would need to advertise abroad? Was that matter looked into when the contract decision was being made? Can he give assurances to this House now that if Canadair does arrive at that position that this entire process will be looked into once again?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is hypothetical. Anything can be raised, anything can be suggested. It is easy to make that kind of suggestions to try and raise a non-existing problem. No foreign worker is authorized to work in this country for Canadair at this moment.

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● (1500)

[English]

AGRICULTURE

CHILLED LAMB IMPORTS—EFFECT ON CANADIAN SHEEP INDUSTRY

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Western Canadian lamb producers and processors are being seriously affected by increased shipments of chilled lamb air-freighted from Australia and New Zealand. Is the Minister able to do something about it? In particular, can he approach the Governments of those countries and request voluntary restrictions on the amounts being shipped?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, we have, Mr. Speaker, but the Hon. Member will know that, given our obligations under GATT and existing legislation, there is no unilateral action we can take. Imports from Australia and New Zealand appear to be up about 77 per cent. However, on the brighter side, imports from the U.S. seem to be down about 35 per cent. The Canadian sheep industry is currently considering whether or not to launch a countervailing duty action. If the industry decides to do so, then of course we will assist them in the same way we assisted the Canadian Cattle-men's Association, the Canadian Pasta Association, and most recently the Canadian corn producers.

REFUGEES

DEPORTATION OF IRANIAN FROM UNITED STATES

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Immigration. It concerns his Department's refusal to save the life of the 25-year old Iranian who will soon be deported by the U.S. to Iran. David Drysdale, of the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, has just confirmed that Ottawa has refused to offer refugee status to this man. Why did the Minister's Department block the initiative taken by Canadians from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, to sponsor this man? Is he not somewhat ashamed that recent department decisions have rewarded questionable candidates while people facing death have received the cold shoulder?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it seems that the Minister of State (Immigration) was very clear on that matter last week. The young Iranian the Hon. Member is referring to has been living in the United States for eight years. The issue involves the U.S. Government and this applicant has not been deemed eligible to immigrant status under Canadian law. This question, therefore, should be addressed to the American Government. We have no business raising the question. He is not qualified to enter Canada as a refugee.

[English]

REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF MINISTERIAL PERMIT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has the power to issue a ministerial permit for this man. It is not an American issue. Canadians have asked to sponsor this man and I would like to know, as would other Canadians, why he refuses to save this man's life? The ability to do so is vested in his Department. He has the authority. Will he not, with humanity and compassion, reach out and bring this individual to Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as we have told Hon. Members opposite on three occasions last week—and I have just done so once again—that individual has now been in the United States seven or eight years, and his case is still under review in the United States—he has not been deported from the United States to my knowledge—and he does not qualify. Besides, it is my view that the Minister's first obligation is to require or make sure that the case is acceptable under Canadian rather than American law.