

We are considering various options in respect of the backlog, and I shall report to the House on those options as soon as possible.

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, the Minister fails to tell Canadians that it took three years before the Government introduced legislation, and it still, after four years in office, fails to recognize the difference between the system and the backlog, and the fact that both are in need of action at the same time.

This Minister continues to speak to the House of options—

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the Hon. Member to put his question.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): He thinks he is Dave Barrett.

Mr. Marchi: Take it easy, Joe; you have more than enough on your own plate.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I ask my question again of the Minister. Given that she has ruled out a general amnesty, something which we advocate and support—because it is not an answer; it does not distinguish between right and wrong—and given that there are rumours afloat about a mass deportation, would the Minister not agree that the most logical, humane and effective response would be to establish an administrative review process whereby refugees would be judged upon certain base criteria, with the Government retaining the option of refusing refugee status for security, health, or other reasons?

Does she not consider such a review process to be the best option?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, that is one of the options we are looking at, as the Hon. Member knows—and I very much appreciate his advice on how to deal with the backlog. But there are other ways to deal with the backlog, and we will consider all options.

Oral questions

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

HIRING PRACTICES AFFECTING WOMEN

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Immigration, who is also the Minister responsible for the status of women.

As the Minister is no doubt aware, Canadian employers frequently hire workers overseas using criteria which are inconsistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights. In particular, the Manitoba Fashion Institute hires female workers only if they declare themselves to be single. If they are married, they are not hired.

Does the Government continue to condone such practices, which discriminate against single and married women and which are counter to the Charter of Rights?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Government has never condoned any kind of selection on the basis of marital status in the way that the Hon. Member has described.

An Hon. Member: Come on! You sent her back. You discriminated against a married woman.

Mrs. McDougall: The answer to the question is that the Government has never condoned such practices.

REQUEST THAT DEPORTATION PROCEDURES BE STOPPED

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): As a supplementary, there are women in Manitoba who are now suffering terribly because of this practice. When the Minister refused in August to intervene, despite pleas in this House to do so, Sally Espenelli was deported. Now, Violag Juay Yong faces the same fate in the next few weeks.

• (1450)

Will the Minister stop all deportation procedures, review these cases, and address this discriminatory practice immediately?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there are other issues at stake in this case, as the Hon. Member well knows. We review every case which comes to us on a case by case basis and I stand by the decision that was made in my office.