

Oral Questions

Mr. Marchi: No one is coming over.

Mrs. McDougall: It has just been put into effect. We are now balancing the program in a way that will spread that investment out across the country instead of just having it go to some of the richer provinces.

● (1140)

The cornerstone of our policy is that we do indeed apply the standards of the Immigration Act to everyone, and will continue to do so. We will be enhancing the monitoring and the standards around this program. For those who have been in office while the program was instituted with absolutely no monitoring, I find this remarkably hypocritical.

ADMISSION OF HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In an article in *The Globe and Mail* today Victor Malarek documents abuses in Canada's immigration system that the Minister of Immigration and all her employees cannot document.

Can the Minister tell the House why it is possible that 18 Hong Kong businessmen admitted under the program promoted by the Government can supposedly live with their families in two houses in Metropolitan Toronto while continuing to live in Hong Kong, and still escape the detection of the Department?

Is this the type of monitoring the Minister meant when she told *The Globe and Mail* on July 5: "I told my officials that I really want this program monitored and very carefully watched"?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I cannot comment on the case that is under way at the present time, except to say that even the story in the paper suggests that what is being investigated goes back for many years. It did not start last week, last month, or even last year. It goes back for quite a long time, and that is the only comment that I will make on this case.

CONDITIONAL VISAS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the Government has two immigration policies—Bill C-84 to slam the door on refugees, and Bill C-55 which lets this program be wide open for the wealthy.

Can the Minister explain why there is such widespread cheating, rampant among these wealthy immigrants, while only half of them have restricted conditional visas which require them to enter the country and establish the businesses that they promised to do under the terms of their entry, which they are not doing?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have already suggested to the

House that until this Party took office there was not even a review of this program.

Mr. Orlikow: Four years. How many more years do you want?

Mrs. McDougall: There has been a review of this program. We are looking actively at how to monitor more effectively. Conditional visas do involve Charter considerations. That may or may not be the answer, but we are looking at it very actively and will be making some announcements soon.

IMMIGRANT DOCTORS—STAFFING OF RURAL HOSPITALS

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Bearing in mind the alleged near crisis reported by some rural medical associations, as the result of the unwillingness of Canadian trained doctors and nurses to staff hospitals in rural Canada, would the Minister give consideration to allowing for a designated system that would appropriately label some rural communities as difficult to staff medically and allow those hospital administrators to apply in foreign lands, simultaneously with any advertisement with provincial and Canadian medical associations, and specifically without the requirement for the three-month waiting period while time is wasted in applying in the domestic market for medical staff?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is to be commended for his continuing interest in what is a real problem in the rural parts of Canada.

There is a program of co-operation between federal and provincial health authorities. In the Immigration Department we do expedite the entry of foreign doctors when the problem comes to us.

At the moment there are two log-jams. One is with the standards and interests reviewed by the medical association. The other is at the provincial level. To the extent possible, we are prepared to break the log-jam on the immigration side. We do process those applications very quickly.

I would be interested in helping out in other ways that might expedite the situation, and if designated areas are one of them I would be happy to do that. It will not solve the fundamental problem of foreign doctors coming and practising briefly in an area and then moving on, and that may create another source of difficulty in the future.

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AGRICULTURE

DROUGHT IN ONTARIO—ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and it concerns the