

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Out of one side of his mouth he says cut down government expenditure, and out of the other he says increase it.

With regard to the unemployment figures, the hon. gentleman will have noticed that these were given in the course of a budget statement, and I have indicated I will be making that in the month of May.

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IMMIGRATION

REASON FOR DEPORTATION ORDER AGAINST MR. DUDZIAK

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is the minister aware that a deportation order has been issued in the case of Boguslaw Dudziak, that he will be picked up by immigration officers at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 25 and returned to Poland, even though Mr. Dudziak immediately contacted immigration officials upon his arrival in Canada on August 15, 1975, having left his ship in Halifax, and claimed refugee status because he had remained a Roman Catholic during his life in Poland and sought refuge in Canada because he was not a communist?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I believe I have heard representations with regard to that particular case very recently, and we are examining it. Claims for refugee status are examined very carefully, usually at two levels. One is interdepartmental committee, and if its answer is favourable, that settles it. If it is not, the person claiming refugee status has access through the appeal system to the appeal board. If he has been through those two stages and still the decision indicates he is not a refugee and a deportation order has been issued under a special inquiry, then my hands are somewhat tied. However, I am aware of the representations, and I am looking into the case.

Mr. Coates: The minister says he is looking into the matter but the individual has only about a day and a half left in this country unless the minister takes some action. Can the minister explain how a deportation order could have been issued without any contact with me by either himself or his department officials and even though I forwarded all available details to him by hand at his office on March 4 and March 9 and spoke to him privately asking that he examine the case in the hope that he could take action which would prevent this calamity from occurring?

● (1430)

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member should understand that once the process has reached the stage where a special inquiry has been held, I do not have jurisdiction. It would probably be improper for me to have jurisdiction once a deportation order has been decided upon. The exact time frame the hon. member refers to I would think, without having had an opportunity to confirm, would fit here at post inquiry stage.

Mr. Coates: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain to this House how a young man who

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sought refuge in this nation because we stand for freedom of choice in both politics and religion, who has a firm offer of employment, who has received support from the citizens of the town of Truro as well as from myself and the hon. member for Halifax, on his files, can be forced to return to a communist country while the notorious General Quang is allowed to receive sanctuary in this nation?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I expect to settle the issue on the second part of that question very soon. The circumstances are quite different and I think the hon. member will understand that it would take too much detail to explain at this time. In so far as the first part of the question is concerned, it all hinges on the validity of the claim of the applicant to refugee status. Criteria are clearly established as to how that is judged. Unfortunately, ship desertion from countries behind the iron curtain does not necessarily influence the decision about the validity of refugee status. Those are very carefully looked at. There are circumstances in this case that I will have to look at, but I think it is probably past the inquiry stage and beyond my jurisdiction.

Mr. Gus MacFarlane (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to associate the hon. member for Parkdale and myself with our two colleagues opposite in this matter and indicate that I have been writing concerning this matter well before—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AIR TRANSPORT

INCREASE IN LANDING FEES FOR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT— REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Would the minister take this opportunity to tell the House how he will be responding to the many submissions of protest against the government's decision to impose landing fees for private aircraft at Department of Transport airports, and whether consideration has been given to people in the frontier areas, mainly northern Canada, to whom the private aircraft is an indispensable mode of transportation rather than a luxury?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated on an earlier occasion the proposal in relation to landing fees is a rather modest one having regard to the lack of increase for many years. We have been having discussions with owners and pilots associations and others, however, and I have been having discussions with members of the Liberal caucus who have a great interest in flying.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!