

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not subscribe to the idea that it is going poorly. I think it is going positively. We have 32,251 persons on behalf of whom registrations have been made. The processing of the interviews is proceeding with dispatch. We are taking special measures to provide landing quickly in order to establish clearly that there is no trap and that there are no hidden problems with regard to this program. I think our difficulty perhaps is that we do not have a benchmark against which to judge this in terms of quantity. There have been highly speculative rumours concerning the number of people in Canada to whom it might apply, but there is absolutely no statistical or actual basis to indicate that we have 50,000, 100,000 or what. I would appeal to all hon. members to publicize this program in their constituencies and help me to convince these people to take advantage of it before October 15. I agree with the hon. member that we want to avoid deportation orders, but we do intend to apply the law after October 15.

Mr. Alexander: Can the minister advise how many people have been given landed immigrant status since registration, and can he also advise whether in fact he will be setting up special medical teams in cities other than Toronto in order to process these applications quickly?

Mr. Andras: There have been 9,199 registrants who have been interviewed and 9,121 or 99.2 per cent of these have complied with the regulations and relaxed criteria under the immigrant adjustment program. That represents a very high rate of success. Even those who have not succeeded in being dealt in that way are under review because there is documentation or something else involved. The medical teams are being set up as quickly as possible to finalize medical examination which, as the hon. member knows, is a part of the processing.

IMMIGRANT ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM—POSITION OF INDIANS ALONG NEW BRUNSWICK-MAINE BORDER

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary or related question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is the minister aware of the concern and anxiety among native people in Indian communities along the New Brunswick-Maine border that his directive regarding visitors to Canada might be applied to them, with the result of splitting up families recognized by the Indian Act, and will the minister assure the House and these concerned native people that the October 15 deadline does not apply to them?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not fully aware of the circumstances to which the hon. member refers. Provided this does not involve a suggestion of recognition of the Jay Treaty, which is a very tricky situation, I most certainly will look into it and do everything possible to ensure that legitimate Canadian citizens in that area have nothing to fear.

Oral Questions

FINANCE

INQUIRY AS TO PRESENTATION OF NEW BUDGET

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact the budget of last February has been modified and changed so often by a series of ad hoc measures, may we expect to have a new budget presented to the House very shortly?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will take this by way of a representation which I will convey to the Minister of Finance as soon as he returns.

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[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

DIFFICULTIES RESPECTING FISHING RIGHTS OF MICMACS AND MALISEETS IN NEW BRUNSWICK—PROPOSED MEASURES

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

In view of the growing feeling of frustration and alienation amongst the Indians on the east coast of Canada, particularly the Micmacs and Maliseets in New Brunswick, concerning their fishing rights, can the minister tell us whether he is willing, jointly with his colleague the Minister of Fisheries, to study the matter anew with a view to finding a solution as soon as possible?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I take due note of the hon. member's representations and will get in touch with my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries, to find a solution. The matter falls far more within his jurisdiction than my own, but I shall be pleased to make representations on behalf of the Micmac and Maliseet Indians.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

NUMBER OF UNITED STATES CATTLE IMPORTED INTO CANADA RECENTLY

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Agriculture. Since he was kind enough to tell us last spring of the flood of feeder cattle going into the United States, has he any figures on the flood of finished cattle that came into Canada in the last nine days?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): As of yesterday I think it was around 9,000 head. United States cattle moving into Toronto from the United States this week so far, Monday to Thursday, total about 7,000 head. Another 1,800 head have moved into Winnipeg. This week imports were just over 8,500 head.