

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member please resume his seat. The hon. member is not asking a supplementary question but presenting an argument. If he has a supplementary question, would he please put it in the form of a question.

Mr. Woolliams: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Because a crisis exists does the minister not agree that we should set up a committee such as I have suggested, before there is further trouble in our universities?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the question implies that the cause of this trouble is some imperfection in our immigration regulations. I think that is a rather oversimplified view of the problem in the universities.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I see a number of hon. members wish to ask supplementary questions. I am trying to be as fair as possible to all hon. members. I see the hon. member for Shefford wishes to ask a supplementary question. I will return to other hon. members who have already asked questions about this problem.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister.

Since we learned here yesterday from a provincial government's representative that according to the results of an investigation in the case, Mao followers were responsible for damages made two days ago at Sir George Williams University, does the federal government intend to open an inquiry to confirm the statement of a provincial minister regarding this movement?

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, may I ask another supplementary question on this point? It has been determined that 45 out of 96 accused in the incident at Sir George Williams University were non-Canadians or foreigners. Could the minister find out exactly what is the immigration status of those 45 accused, to see if they were here as landed immigrants or students, or whether they had visitors' visas?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we are conducting an investigation into the classification of the status of each of these persons. But it is a complicated question. When persons come to Canada as students, they must have an enrolment in university and meet their own

[Mr. Woolliams.]

financial obligations. It is possible in certain cases to withdraw a student's visa, but I do not think it would be desirable at this point for the immigration department to take action until the facts are clear, the identity of responsible persons known and their culpability established.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Answering the supplementary questions of other hon. members the minister said the Department of Manpower and Immigration may exercise discretion. Does that discretion permit people connected with Mr. Carmichael to enter Canada and cause trouble?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is more an argument than a question. Perhaps we should go to another subject.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I wish to put another supplementary question to the minister.

Could the minister investigate to see whether the federal government has granted scholarships to some of the foreign students arrested yesterday?

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In view of the riots which took place at Sir George Williams University, would the minister tell the house whether he deems it advisable to change or to put off the approaches made to China, in order to ascertain whether that communist country was involved in those acts of sabotage?

[English]

Some hon. Members: Answer.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, in view of the great interest the house has displayed in the matter of foreign students in this country would the Minister of Manpower and Immigration make a report to the house on motions after he has conducted and completed a study?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to consider that when sufficient facts are known to make a meaningful report.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, in making that statement could the Minister of Manpower and Immigration deal