

Adjournment Debate

People who are unaware their name and criminal record have been preserved or who are not familiar with the procedure under the Criminal Records Act to have their file sealed, are vulnerable to suspicions which may at any time compromise their reputation and their job.

It is reported that the significant increase in applications for rehabilitation has had the effect of slowing down response time. In fact, as was mentioned by another member, the Nelson Task Force felt that the rehabilitation process provided under the Criminal Records Act was costly, unwieldy and unefficient. However, in line with the tenor of the task force report and thanks to excellent co-operation between the National Parole Board and the RCMP, the process was drastically revamped so that a significantly heavier workload could be taken on without significantly increasing the resources allocated to this activity.

Several changes were responsible for this increased efficiency. The first change concerns the documents collected by applicants. A person applying for rehabilitation must now include with his application all the necessary documentation: a certified copy of his criminal record obtained from the RCMP, a certificate of the court sentence obtained where the case was heard; and, if necessary, a record of military conduct obtained from the registry or the commanding officer.

The kit provided for an application for rehabilitation contains all the necessary information and everything applicants need to transmit their fingerprints to the RCMP and receive a copy of their record. The RCMP's Criminal Identity Service apparently has no trouble sending criminal records directly to applicants during the initial stages. This administrative reform has speeded up the process and helped the RCMP accelerate retrieval of the records in question. The number of applications it can process went up to 10,028 in 1984-85.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may conclude very briefly. I believe that by tabling C-314 in this House, the hon. member for Mississauga South has given us food for thought. In fact, judicious interventions of this type often form the basis for wide-ranging legislative reform.

• (1800)

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The time provided for Private Members' Business has now expired.

[*Translation*]

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(3), the order is dropped to the bottom of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

MINING

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, on March 11, I put a series of questions to the Minister of Employment and Immigration concerning the lay-offs at Denison Mines in Elliot Lake.

A week ago last Friday, Denison Mines laid off approximately 1,050 employees in that community, in addition to the 2,200 people laid off last July and August by Denison and by Rio Algom. The situation in that community has resulted in something like 80 per cent of the miners in the work force being laid off at the present time. The existing lay-off of 1,050 is for a six-week period, but that will be repeated in July and August when the same number will be laid off. Out of that group it is projected that some 400 will be permanently laid off.

Since that time we have had word from the president of Denison Mines, Mr. Bill James, that the likelihood of the company continuing on a permanent basis beyond the end of 1992 is very questionable because of the arrangements between Ontario Hydro and the mining company for the supply of uranium to Ontario Hydro. It is impossible to overemphasize the gravity of the situation.

One of my questions to the minister was along the following lines: Can the minister speed up the payments of UI benefits?