

Supply

Does the minister have any plans to curb so-called immigration consultant sharks, as I call them, who charge as much as \$5,000 promising someone permanent residence status in Canada and frequently disappointing that person when all is done or, I should say, not done.

Why is Canada not living up to the spirit of basket 3 of the Helsinki Final Act concerning human contacts? The act, which Canada signed, reads, and I quote:

—contacts and regular meetings on the basis of family ties, in order to promote the further development of contacts on the basis of family ties, the participating states favourably consider application for travel with the purpose of allowing persons to enter or leave their territory temporarily, and on a regular basis if desired, in order to visit members of their families.

In connection with this, when a family wishes to visit relatives in Canada for a period of three months I would like to ask the minister why the officials in our foreign posts insist on granting a visa for only one month or a shorter period of time. Is this not contravening the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act of which Canada is a signatory? The processing of seeking extensions of these visas wastes valuable time for the immigration officials, the member of Parliament involved and the sponsoring families.

I would appreciate an update on the minister's negotiations with the United States concerning the infamous "Buffalo shuffle" by which individuals wishing to apply for permanent residence in Canada through a Canadian post in the United States are unable to do so due to the fact that Canada will not guarantee their readmission to Canada and the United States government will not admit them unless they have such a guarantee.

My next question is with respect to the serious political and economic situation in Poland. Should a war break out in Poland—and we hope not—would visitors who are here from Poland be granted asylum in Canada? Would the minister allow such Polish citizens trapped in Canada to apply quickly for permanent residence from within Canada? In the same circumstances would the government attempt to process quickly any outstanding applications from Poland and allow an increased flow of immigration from that country?

I would appreciate an update on the minister's negotiations with the provinces. Which provinces have requested more immigration, and which provinces have requested less?

I would appreciate information on family reunification cases, from the Ukraine specifically. Many of the Ukrainian-Canadian groups in Toronto have approached me many times to state that very few cases are resolved from the Ukraine, and I would like specific statistics to deal with this question.

The 4(H) regulation of the act concerning immigration of members of the family class is another area of concern to many of my constituents. The regulations state that an individual alone in Canada who wishes to sponsor a relative but who has another relative who is also sponsorable cannot sponsor the relative wishing to be sponsored. For example, a person in Canada wishing to sponsor a younger brother cannot do so because an elderly grandfather is still living, despite the fact that the grandfather does not wish to be sponsored and

has no wish to come to Canada. It would appear that this legislation, while on the one hand attempting to help in a compassionate way permanent residents in Canada who are alone, at the same time creates and promotes an artificial hardship. I would appreciate learning from the minister whether he has any plans to amend this legislation. If he does not, I suggest that the relevant paragraph in information booklets printed by the Department of Employment and Immigration be reworded to avoid confusion. Much of the wording as it now stands leads people astray, as in the case I have just cited. The family class sponsorship section of the booklet reads, and I quote:

Any relative, regardless of age or marital status, can be sponsored.

In reality this is not true. Would the minister consider amending legislation to allow co-sponsorship in cases where one individual in a family is not able to sponsor a relative alone but perhaps a brother and a sister are willing to do so?

The minister's answers to the above questions will be of great interest and assistance to all hon. members of this House, to my dear constituents of Parkdale-High Park and to all Canadians.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member for his kind words. As Minister of Employment and Immigration I am not used to such compliments in such frequency. When they do come, I am particularly appreciative because of that infrequency. I compliment the hon. member in return by saying it is through the efforts of hon. members like himself who take such a strong and thoughtful interest in immigration that we are able to perform our functions.

I said in the House on Friday that the administration of the immigration law is very much made of human judgments. It cannot be bureaucratized. It cannot be regularized. It is something which requires an individual to make choices. Sometimes they are tough choices, and I want to thank the hon. member for the assistance he has provided me in many cases by bringing information and wisdom to many of the more difficult judgments we have had to make.

The hon. member has asked a number of very specific questions. I hope I will have time to respond fully to them. If I cannot give complete answers, I will make sure they are given to the hon. member in written form.

His first question dealt with illegal immigrants. This matter should really be looked at on a case-by-case basis. We obviously do not want to encourage large-scale illegal entry to Canada because it is unfair for those who apply legally and go through proper procedures. That is why we put some effort into enforcement.

At the same time, if an individual or family has been here for a long period of time, has settled into a community and demonstrated worth, I give the hon. member and other members the assurance that we would be prepared to consider such cases on their merits and to apply the standards of compassion and recognition to contribution to this country. We cannot make a blanket statement on that, for obvious reasons, but we