

lowing the straightforward questions of the hon. member for New Westminster to which the minister replied in a jocular manner. The minister indicated that when the so-called Five Dragons were given landed immigration status there had been no investigations concerning criminal activity. I ask: When they were given landed immigration status, did they qualify under the points system, or were they given landed immigration status on the basis of their entrepreneurial skills?

An hon. Member: They were refugees.

Mr. Epp: Further, if no such information was available, did he meet with officials either today or last night after the new information became public? Did he instruct his officials to carry out a thorough investigation or inquiry of those five in order to determine if the immigration department was subverted by those persons who were given landed immigrant status under highly questionable circumstances?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, first, the hon. member misquoted me. I said they had not been convicted of any crime. That was my response to the question raised by the hon. member for New Westminster. Second, I said we had been made aware of allegations made against those persons. So far, investigations have not revealed evidence which would permit action under the Immigration Act. Our investigations are continuing.

Mr. Epp: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the serious allegations made in the CBC documentary concerning certain immigration officials who apparently were helping to land known mobsters in Canada—apparently these criminals were entering and leaving Canada at will—would the minister consider establishing an independent inquiry into the operations of the Immigration department, for two reasons: one, to clear the names of the many immigration officials who do their jobs honestly and fairly; second, to bring to justice those who are in collusion with mobsters, assuming those facts can be borne out by an inquiry?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his comments about the vast majority of members of the department who do their jobs honestly, effectively and well. They are to be commended, especially given the situation they face every day.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cullen: Since some 75 million people cross our borders every year, they do a fantastic job. We are always disturbed when we hear allegations of this nature. First we should check them out before we condemn anyone. Investigations are under way to see if new facts or evidence can be brought to light. That is being done, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Fraser: Let's have a commission.

Oral Questions

ORGANIZED CRIME—ENTRY INTO CANADA OF HONG KONG POLICEMEN

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In his earlier reply he suggested that the official opposition had only discovered organized crime last night, courtesy of television. I point out to the minister that 16 months and one day ago, on February 13, 1976, I asked the then Solicitor General about the 12 former Hong Kong policemen who had fled from Hong Kong in the face of an investigation by the independent commission looking into corruption, and their entry to Canada, in order that a dangerous situation would not be allowed to develop. The matter was also brought to the attention of the present Minister of Justice, who acknowledged the existence of the letter of complaint in May, 1976.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): A cover-up.

Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General at that time said that he had not heard of such a report, but would consult with the Minister of Justice and the RCMP about it. My question at this time is this: Did those consultations take place with the Department of the Solicitor General, and what were the results?

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): They never heard about it.

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as hon. members who watched television last night know—

Mr. Clark: That is the first you knew of it.

Mr. Fox: —many allegations were made last night, and I would suppose that on the face of it some of them are far-fetched.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): How do you know?

Mr. Fox: As far as the ex-Hong Kong policemen are concerned, there are ongoing consultations between the Department of Manpower and Immigration and my department.

Mr. Paproski: Yes, you are going to meet at five after three.

● (1450)

Mr. Fox: Of course, Mr. Speaker, the decision as to immigration to this country rests ultimately with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fox: There were many allegations made last night. Some referred to ex-Hong Kong policemen, some of whom would have been hired by the RCMP. There was a Mr. Ko who was a former member of the Hong Kong police force. He was hired by, and stayed with, the RCMP from 1969 until 1975, at which time he left.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!