

PUBLIC SERVICE

DISMISSAL OF IMMIGRATION OFFICER—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of State for Immigration. It concerns the firing of immigration officer John Quigley. It is clear that Mr. Quigley's firing on the evidence of the dismissal letter was politically motivated as a response to the embarrassment that the information caused the Government, and the Minister specifically. Why did the Minister permit Mr. Quigley to be victimized in such a way by the actions of his Rambo-style senior officials simply to protect his own political reputation and that of his Government?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Quigley has a right to present a grievance. That right has been exercised. From what I understand, the grievance is being heard this afternoon.

REQUEST THAT DEPUTY MINISTER ACCEPT GRIEVANCE
PRESENTATION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, if the Minister can make a political decision to fire an employee, he should have the courage to take a political decision to rehire him instead of washing his hands of this affair.

Given that the very first step in the grievance procedure is an acceptance or a rejection by the Deputy Minister, will he not do the honourable thing and order his Deputy Minister to accept the grievance and automatically overturn what is a very outrageous and unfair decision for Mr. Quigley?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, it is inappropriate for me to comment further until Mr. Quigley has his grievance heard today.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Skeena. One short question, please.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

FORTHCOMING FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE—POSITION OF
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. I am sure he is aware that next month the First Ministers' Conference on the Constitution, aboriginal rights and self-government, will be held. At this point in time it appears that only the lowest common denominator will be the likely result. Will the Deputy Prime Minister today give his assurance that within the next few days the federal Government's position will be released so that the provinces and the public of Canada will have a chance to rally round and see that Canada's first citizens get the kind of consideration they so rightfully deserve at this constitutional conference?

Point of Order—Mr. Riis

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member is fully aware, the ministerial meetings leading up to the FMC will continue and at that time discussions will take place among all participants. What the Hon. Member must remember is that in order to change the Constitution of Canada there is a formula in place that calls for 50 per cent of the population and seven provinces to agree.

Mr. Speaker: Last question, the Hon. Member for Abitibi.

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[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

VILLAGE OF UMUIJAO'S NEED FOR IMMEDIATE, ADEQUATE
POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post. Mayor Noah Inukpuk and the residents of the village of Umuijao north of Kuujuaoroapik in Abitibi want to have adequate postal services immediately because they now have to wait for a whole month before getting their mail, including family allowances, old age security pensions, and other important documents.

Here is my question, Mr. Speaker: The Canadian Government is committed to assist the Inuit under the terms of Section 6.4 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, and Canada Post will have to dispatch an official to this village to settle these problems immediately.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the question of the Hon. Member for Abitibi has to do with a very important matter. I got in touch with Canada Post management and was advised that postal services are now provided through an exchange of mail bags in the village mentioned by the Hon. Member. Management are now examining the volume of mail before deciding what kind of services are required in this village. As soon as a decision has been made I will get back to the Hon. Member.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

COMMENT ON MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs would not want to mislead the House inadvertently. He made reference to the fact that he had requested and not heard the New Democratic Party on suggestions for changes to the