Oral Questions

IMMIGRATION

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF IMMIGRANT PHYSICIANS

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the government agreed to Ontario's request that all job offers to immigrant physicians should be referred to the Ontario Ministry of Health for approval before their applications can be accepted for immigration to Canada and, if so, does this not mean that the government is delegating to the province of Ontario the making of decisions on the admissibility of some immigrants to that province, something which it has so far—and quite properly—refused to do in spite of requests for this kind of authority from the province of Quebec?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the assessment of eligibility for the entrance of medical doctors to Canada involves the establishment of the level of occupational demand, either nationally or regionally, for that skill and profession. Only in that way, through consultation on a regional basis or provincially can we determine where and under what circumstances the occupational demand would permit their entry and attachment to the labour force.

Mr. Gray: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister saying that he is automatically accepting the views of the Ontario ministry in this matter and, if so, does this not mean giving the province of Ontario a veto over the admissibility of immigrant physicians to that province?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, in the field of health those kinds of determinations are very much under the jurisdiction of the provinces, but the agreement as to the level of occupational demand and the reaching of that agreement in our assessment of applications is not automatic, and I do not consider this to be an automatic surrender of veto powers to any province.

ALLEGED CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS BY MINISTER RESPECTING ENTRY OF GENERAL QUANG

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration? I appreciate that he is doing everything he can to clear up the Quang affair. As the minister stated on May 27 that a minister's permit is a very temporary measure allowing him—meaning General Quang—to reside in Canada for a limited period of time and that it is revocable, as on June 4 the minister stated, "As I have said previously, there are many potential legal complexities in this case," and as article 8 of the Immigration Act clearly gives the minister the right to revoke a minister's permit, can the minister explain these apparently contradictory statements?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not think they are contradictory.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. Blackburn: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does, or does not, the minister have the power described in article 8 of the Immigration Act which says that the minister may at any time—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Surely the hon. member realizes that he is asking the minister to give a legal opinion.

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CONSTRUCTION OF PULP AND PAPER MILL AT SAINT-FÉLICIEN, QUEBEC

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Can the minister tell the House whether progress has been made by the Donohue Company and the Quebec government with regard to the pulp and paper mill promised Saint-Félicien over 12 years ago?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I advised the hon. member previously, I think, of the rate of progress to that point. If he will be indulgent, I will make further inquiries about it and advise him in a day or two.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Could he at the same time tell us when the Quebec government and Donohue Co. made their first request to the federal government?

[English]

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I will try to find out.

NATIONAL PARKS

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK—SITUATION RESPECTING IMPOSITION OF ENTRANCE FEE

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Canada's national parks. Has his department reached final agreement with the province of Nova Scotia in any discussions which have gone on about the imposition of fees on those seeking to travel through the Cape Breton Highlands National Park?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is quite right in suggesting that such discussions were held, but the conclusion we collectively reached was that we will stick with the proposed system and make modifications to the entry way, to try to accommodate the concerns of people of Cape Breton Highlands Park region and to the north of the park.