

Oral Questions

which were described as intelligence probes, has been identified before the inquiry. The evidence related to those surreptitious entries and to the nature of such entries is not complete.

I hope the hon. gentlemen will now recognize that the commission was acting with all due haste in ascertaining the whole of the evidence material to the discharge of its mandate, and I trust the hon. member will exhibit some forbearance as we await reports from the commission.

Mr. Leggatt: I wish the police would exercise the same amount of haste with regard to the persons against whom they lay charges. My question is this: 402 of those surreptitious entries occurred in British Columbia. Responsibility for laying charges in these cases lies with the attorney general of the province. Can the Solicitor General advise us specifically whether he has made recommendations to the attorney general of British Columbia with regard to this matter? Has he communicated with the attorney general of British Columbia? After all, they have been charging cabinet ministers out there, and they should think about charging some of the RCMP officers who have clearly violated the law.

Mr. Blais: The position of the government has been made very clear. Any procedures of the RCMP which may be questionable will be referred to the McDonald inquiry and the inquiry will carry on its investigation. That is exactly what has happened. I am satisfied that the inquiry is proceeding apace.

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IMMIGRATION**STATUS OF GENERAL QUANG—POLICY RESPECTING CERTAIN JAMAICAN IMMIGRANTS**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. We note the minister was able to give General Quang a work permit, and as far as I have read—or have been advised—he has not done much for Canada. On the other hand, several Jamaican women who have made a significant contribution and who have been here for between five and ten years are living under a deportation order. I sent the minister a brief on this matter and I believe he appreciates the facts contained therein. I want to know what is happening. Has the minister considered this matter, and is he able to tell the House whether he has any sympathy for this legitimate cause?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I guess he is making contribution in that he is not drawing on the welfare system of the province of Quebec: the General is at least working a 90-hour week to support himself and his family. So to that extent he is not drawing welfare from Quebec and federal taxpayers.

As far as the Jamaican women are concerned, I will concede that the hon. member wrote what is probably one of the best letters in support of his representations that I have received on this subject. He borrowed generously from the opinion and advice of the lawyer who was assisting him. I was prepared to

[Mr. Blais.]

make a decision based upon the recommendations made by the lawyer and by the hon. member. However, they have seen fit to retain counsel and to file appeals with the Federal Court. They have sought the assistance of the human rights commissioner, the Federal Court has decided that it has no jurisdiction, and an appeal has been taken from that ruling. Rather than usurp the role of the assistance which is in place for these ladies, I think this process should first be exhausted. I will make my decision at the end of it.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I have never heard so much nonsense. The minister has indicated—and I thank him for this; I do not ordinarily thank ministers—that the brief I submitted made a lot of sense. All I want to know is whether the minister has any sympathy in this regard. Let us be honest about this matter. If he can look after General Quang, who has done nothing for this country, I want him to stand up and tell me now that he is interested in this matter and that he has some sympathy for these representations. Have the deportation orders been stayed? Further, has the hon. gentleman issued work permits so that these women can continue to make a contribution to this country?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, now we know that the hon. member makes an excellent oral as well as a written presentation. The deportation orders have been stayed: there is nothing to prevent these ladies working. But I think they are entitled to all the rights and benefits of the courts that the law provides. I do not think it is for me to usurp that role. If they choose—as they have chosen—to go that route, I should not say either that they are to be deported or that they will be allowed to stay. Surely these people should be able to use the procedures which are open to them. It is their own counsel who has decided to adopt the appeal procedure, and I think I should respect that decision.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ACCEPTANCE INTO CANADA OF POLISH NATIONAL**

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the minister take action to assist Renata Jacobs, a disabled Polish olympics athlete married to a Canadian citizen, to come to Canada to join her husband in view of the refusal of the Polish government to allow her to leave her country?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I thank my hon. friend for having given me notice of this question. I made some preliminary inquiries and am advised that the marriage to which the hon. member refers took place in March. To this date we have not received a formal application from the husband who will, presumably, be sponsoring the entry of his new wife to Canada. When we get that letter we will be glad to proceed. As to whether the Polish government has refused an exit permit, we have not yet had an opportunity to check into that part of the question.