

the country when inland processing is a part of the way of doing business here.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): How many times did you extend it, Herb?

Mr. Gray (Windsor West):—does the Minister not realize that every Member of Parliament has people coming to his or her office asking for permission to stay permanently because they can get a job? What real difference is there between those cases and the Grossman case? Is he saying it is now the policy of the Government that everyone here on a visitor's visa or work permit can apply for permanent landed immigrant status and be dealt with under ordinary immigrant criteria even if there are no true humanitarian or compassionate grounds? Is he not saying that people no longer have to apply at embassies? Is it not true that there is no real justification here, to use his word?

Mr. Mazankowski: You extended it! What is the matter with you?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, three of those employment authorizations were issued by a Minister of the Government of which the Hon. Member was a part. We continued the process for an additional three years.

There are consistent criteria that allow the Minister of Employment and Immigration, who delegates that authority to the Minister of State for Immigration, to act in a humane and compassionate fashion when it is warranted. That is done in a very few cases. Members of Parliament and other Canadians would not want that compassion removed from the Immigration Department.

SPECIAL TREATMENT QUERY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question, unfortunately, is on the same topic.

Mr. Shields: Get in the hole with the Liberals.

Mr. Riis: I would simply say that when the Prime Minister requested that Parliament be recalled he made the following comment: "People jumping the queue unfairly take other people's rights and other people's legitimate places. This breeds unfairness and unfairness will destroy the system." This is a very serious issue and I ask the Prime Minister to consider responding to the question.

At a time when tens of thousands of Canadians are seeking the opportunity to have their relatives come to Canada and obtain landed immigrant status, does he not think it unfair that Mr. Grossmann, who teaches the children of both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Minister of Immigration,

Oral Questions

would have received special treatment and become a landed immigrant by circumventing the usual immigration process?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, it is clear there has been no special treatment. As I indicated, 15,000 Minister's permits were issued, 99 per cent of the time by our officials in the regions or at head office, so that inland processing could advance. I have a suspicion the Hon. Member is mixing a regular immigrant program with a process of refugee determination which is chaotic, cumbersome and clogged. It is a non-functioning system left by the previous Government, and once and for all this Government has the guts and determination to clean it up.

We are bringing forward a refugee determination process which is just, fair, expeditious, will identify and welcome real refugees, and say no to illegal aliens and yes to real refugees.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has already agreed that the gentleman in question could have applied for landed immigrant status from France when he was there a few weeks ago. All of us have a long list of people who make that request and are regularly turned down because that is the law.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): This one has been approved six times.

Mr. Riis: At a time when we are debating legislation which was motivated by queue jumpers—

Some Hon. Members: Refugees!

Mr. Bouchard: Refugees.

Mr. Riis: Refugees, but nevertheless it is queue jumpers we are concerned about.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are of course aware that in Question Period there is ample opportunity to answer a question. The Hon. Member has the floor and I would ask the usual courtesies be extended. The Hon. Member will put his question.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, on the evidence it seems clear that senior officials intervened to allow an individual to jump the normal queue.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Are you making that charge?

Mr. Riis: At a time when Canadians are very sensitive to that charge would he say that queue jumping did occur, that special treatment was given? If he has nothing to hide, why not refer it to the standing committee for a complete and thorough investigation?