

Oral Questions

Mr. Murphy: The invisible man.

Mr. Riis: Does the Prime Minister not agree that it is totally inappropriate for the wife of the Secretary of State for External Affairs to be using the Minister's staff for her own private gain?

Hon. Pat Carney (Acting Secretary of State For External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I understand that there has been a correction issued in this regard.

Mr. Blaikie: By whom?

Miss Carney: It has been stated that the person in question is a part-time employee on the staff of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and that Ms. McTeer pays her for any work she does on her behalf, which is consistent with the practice carried out by many people.

Mr. Beatty: Apologize.

Mr. McDermid: Check your facts.

Mr. Riis: I am certainly not going to do any apologizing.

TREASURY BOARD GUIDELINES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my information is that a ministerial assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs has been seeking information to assist the Minister's wife in her private affairs. Will the Minister look into this situation? If there has been a misuse of public funds, will the guidelines of the Treasury Board be adhered to?

Mr. McDermid: She just answered that.

Miss MacDonald: You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. Riis: She was wrong. She doesn't know what she is talking about.

Hon. Pat Carney (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is odd to hear such allegations made by a Party which publicly says that it supports work for women and working women.

Mr. Broadbent: I can't believe that.

Mr. Riis: Sit down.

Mr. Murphy: She calls from the External Affairs office.

Miss Carney: Now they do not even want to hear the answer.

Mr. Riis: Well, not that kind of answer.

Miss Carney: I can assure the Hon. Member that I have looked into these media reports and that no guidelines or rules have been breached through the use of a part-time worker for this purpose.

Mr. Murphy: She did it from the External Affairs office.

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IMMIGRATION

ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL MINISTERIAL ENTRY PERMIT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Immigration. Yesterday the Minister justified the granting of a special permit to an individual with over 20 criminal convictions on the basis that he admitted to his record as opposed to having denied it for the last eight years. This is completely unacceptable reasoning.

Why did the Minister extend special privileges to this individual for simply admitting to the record, disregarding the advice of his Department and three previous Ministers who concluded that such a criminal record means that this candidate is both inadmissible and unwanted in this country? What are the real reasons behind his judgment?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, it is a consistent policy that this country, supported by our Acts, permits rehabilitation. This is a very delicate issue. We are dealing with the rehabilitation of a human being.

APPLICANT'S REHABILITATION LETTER

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, not only is the Minister facilitating the special entry of this individual, he also interfered with the rehabilitation letter. Since his own official, Mr. Westerberg, has confirmed that the rehabilitation letter was redrafted and retyped in the Minister's own office, why did he doctor this important letter to justify his own personal decision? Why the political indecision or interference in such an independent rehabilitation process?

● (1500)

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with the rehabilitation of a human being, a father, a husband, and a case in which a child is involved. There is wide community support, including the clergy, businessmen, professionals and national organizations. He has admitted his guilt. Those are the things that might have disqualified him. I have proposed him to the Minister of Employment and Immigration as a candidate for admission.

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NARCOTICS

MANDATORY TESTING FOR DRUGS—APPLICATION OF CHARTER OF RIGHTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Yesterday I mentioned in the House that American Motors of Canada was