

Oral Questions

Will the Deputy Prime Minister tell us now what deals and trade-offs are being made behind closed doors?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing taking place is a process of consultation with Canadians. Between the time the Minister of Finance announced that consultations would take place and the present, we have had over 5,400 Canadians involved in consultations with the government with regard to the environment.

I take it from the hon. member that the Liberal Party of Canada opposes this sort of consultation with the people of Canada. For the government's part, it believes that Canadians have a right to be involved in determining policies relating to the very survival of this planet.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the two ministers of immigration, I direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Recent reports indicate that the government is very hesitant about initiating deportation hearings against some business immigrants who have not honoured their end of the economic commitment which was the basis for their admission into Canada. I would ask the Deputy Prime Minister how the government can refuse to investigate such individuals when thousands of refugee family class or independent class applicants are scrutinized religiously and refused for the smallest of flaws? Why, in other words, the double standard, one for the rich and one for the not so rich.

• (1500)

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of State (Youth), Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Employment and Immigration I will take notice of the hon. member's question, to which a reply will be forthcoming.

[*English*]

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I thank the sports minister for answering on behalf of the immigration dossier.

I return again to the Deputy Prime Minister. Two years ago in the House in response to my question, the Minister of Immigration said, and I quote: "We apply the standards of the act to everyone and we will be especially enhancing the monitoring of the business immigrant program".

Thirty-two thousand business immigrants later, could the Deputy Prime Minister tell me if the government knows where these business immigrants are in Canada? Have they lived up to their economic commitment, and, precisely how many jobs have they created for our Canadian economy?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of State (Youth), Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his question. I can assure him that the Minister of Employment and Immigration will give him—

[*English*]

—and I am sure the member will be happy with her answer.

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GUN CONTROL

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice.

The minister knows that hundreds of thousands of Canadians have signed petitions calling for more effective gun control in Canada, particularly with respect to military and paramilitary combat weapons, and that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities this month unanimously urged a ban on these weapons in civilian hands.

In view of the fact that the minister promised on May 10 of this year before the justice committee to table gun control legislation before the summer adjournment, why is she now backing off on this promise? Why is she now caving in to the vocal minority in this country who do not believe in any effective gun control legislation at all?