

been withdrawn, to what other part of Canada have they been assigned?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, one of the things I have learned in my years in the House is to check that sort of allegation to make sure it is factual. I will obviously try to do that within the next couple of days.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

TREATMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and of his Parliamentary Secretary, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

In view of the fact that we will be celebrating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights soon, and considering that the treatment of Japanese Canadians in World War II is a black mark on our history, will the Minister of Justice indicate that progress has been made toward making moral and material restitution to Japanese Canadians? Will he consider, as part of that restitution, the establishment of a Chair of Human Rights or, perhaps in conjunction with the ethnic chairs, a Chair of Japanese Canadian Studies in Canada?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Madam Speaker, I think there is a general disposition in Canadian society and Parliament to recognize there were serious excesses in the way that Japanese Canadians were treated during the Second World War. As the Hon. Member knows, as a result of the Bird Commission after the war, that was recognized in part by compensation paid to some 1,300 claimants in 1950 for property claims. Of course that does not exhaust the range of possibilities. Once one gets beyond property claims, however, one gets into undefined areas where there can be a considerable amount of disagreement.

As Japanese Canadian spokesmen have said themselves, it is not just or even primarily, a question of compensation. It is something that has to be worked out by our society with the assistance of the Japanese Canadian communities. There is a considerable disagreement still, as I understand it, among members of that community about how we can best make up for the excesses of the past. I think some further maturing time is required for a consensus to develop on the best way to proceed.

Personally, I have no problems with the suggestions made by the Hon. Member, but I do not think at this point we could adopt one suggestion or another.

Report of Special Committee

IMMIGRATION

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS—RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, I want to follow up on the questions put by the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton regarding the position of a Member of Parliament who applies anonymously on behalf of an illegal immigrant. If the illegal immigrant is turned down, what is the position of the Member of Parliament regarding his oath to uphold the laws of Canada? Must he report that person, then, to the Immigration Department as an illegal? Has the Minister had a report from the Department of Justice on the position of a Member of Parliament in that particular case?

• (1200)

May I finally ask him why he appointed his Parliamentary Secretary to be the chairman of the committee which decides which illegal immigrants are allowed landed immigrant status and which are not? Why was it not left with the bureaucracy? Why does he bring politics into it now?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I believe the answer to the first question is that I am not in a position, nor is it customary, to give legal opinions to Hon. Members. The answer to his second question would be that I do not think it appropriate for me to determine or dictate to Hon. Members of Parliament how they perform their duties. It seems to me the procedure for review is there and it is quite proper for a Member of Parliament to bring cases to it. I would leave it entirely up to an Hon. Member's discretion and conscience as to whether he or she think they are acting wisely in taking advantage of that procedure.

To answer the third question, Madam Speaker, the reason why I appointed my Parliamentary Secretary to chair that committee was that I thought it was very useful to add to the bureaucratic assessment the views of the kind of person who is in regular contact with constituents. It seems to me there is in this process not simply a question of bureaucratic determination, but also the application of compassion and political—I do not mean partisan—judgment in the best sense.

Mr. McDermid: Not at all.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE

CONCURRENCE IN FIFTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, there are seven motions standing in my name, which are