

*Oral Questions*

Canada on student visas and who will be graduating in June this year. Will they be affected by the edict that was handed down on November 3? In other words, are the students who have been here for the past four years going to be classed as visitors and therefore be caught in this trap?

**Mr. Andras:** I would have to examine the second question very carefully. It depends very much on the category in which they declared themselves to be when they came to Canada. If they came as visitors and are now applying for landed immigrant status, the revocation of section 34 is probably applicable.

PROHIBITION OF APPLICATIONS FOR LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS BY VISITORS—NUMBERS INVOLVED AND SUFFERING HARDSHIP

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he has conducted any investigation to ascertain how many people who came here as visitors were caught in this way, to what extent actual hardship does exist, and how many of these people were brought here by so-called immigration consultants?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I would suggest to the minister that perhaps this information should be given to the House by way of a statement on motions rather than by way of a reply to a question during the question period.

**Mr. Stanfield:** May I say with respect, Mr. Speaker, that I hope I did not ask for too much. May I ask the minister whether he has conducted an investigation into the numbers involved and how many are suffering hardship as a result of this new law?

**Mr. Andras:** We are receiving representations from organized groups now and I think that before too long we will have some indication of the numbers. Whether or not we will ever have a complete story in precise detail I cannot say, but we are certainly getting an indication of the size of the problem. As to the second part of the question, yes, I think there were some representations by organizations or people who call themselves immigration consultants.

PROHIBITION OF APPLICATIONS FOR LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS BY VISITORS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SITUATION

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether he will take the suggestion contained in Mr. Speaker's comment a moment ago and make a statement, not necessarily in a day or two but in a week or so, about the situation he has found in his determination to respond to the Tory backlash against immigration?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest we are now in the field of argument and debate. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Egmont on a last supplementary question. Hon. members will appreciate that only ten minutes are left before the end of the question period and in view of the number of hon. members seeking the floor

[Mr. Alexander.]

rather urgently and aggressively on other subjects, I think we should make an effort to give them an opportunity to put their questions.

PROHIBITION OF APPLICATIONS FOR LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS BY VISITORS—AID TO PERSONS POSSIBLY SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT IF RETURNED TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what steps his department is taking to assist people who find themselves in the position of possibly being forced to return to a country where, for political reasons, they may end up serving a long term of imprisonment in view of this new regulation? Is there a policy with regard to people in this category?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** In most cases people in that situation have entered an appeal to the Immigration Appeal Board, but most certainly, as a general principle, where there is clear evidence that there will be political retribution or political punishment when they return to their country of origin they would fit into what we call the refugee class, into a category of special hardship cases, and we would most certainly be in a position and want to be in a position to review their cases. I say that without committing myself in any particular case.

**Mr. Korchinski:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Mackenzie on a last supplementary question on this subject, but again I insist that an effort will have to be made by hon. members to limit the number of supplementary questions because we are certainly not making much headway when we have five, six or more supplementary questions to every question. If this is the way that hon. members wish that the question period should proceed, that every day we should choose four or five subjects and have a dozen supplementary questions on each of them, that would make it easier for the Chair but I do not think it would satisfy hon. members.

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact there is a conference on hijacking under way at present I wish to ask the minister whether the statement he has just made is not in conflict with any criteria that may be set down for the negotiations at that conference or whether political implications may be involved here regarding whether or not a person wants to go to any particular country?

• (1140)

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any connection and if there was any implied in what I said I should like to make it clear that I do not have that in mind with regard to the hijacking problem.