

Deschênes Commission to ensure that in the future, immigration into Canada and Canadian citizenship are not available to those who have participated in war crimes in other countries. The immigration screening process and interview procedure will be tightened up as recommended. Other protections of the Immigration Act and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees will be made expressly inapplicable to war criminals.

• (1130)

[Translation]

In future, Canadian citizenship will be denied to those who have participated in war crimes. This will be done by amending the Citizenship Act to make complicity in war crimes as defined in the amended Criminal Code a bar to Canadian citizenship.

[English]

With respect to those who already have become Canadian citizens, the Government does not wish to change the law retroactively. Hence, it will proceed under existing laws and practices to address the problem of individuals whose citizenship has been obtained through demonstrable fraud.

Certain of the commission's recommendations suggested changes to Canada's extradition laws to increase the extent to which extradition would be available to remove those suspected of war crimes from this country. The Government's current extradition policies represent a carefully developed balance of the considerations which must apply before Canadian residents are sent outside Canada for trial elsewhere. Because we seek solutions consistent with the Government's goal of ensuring that this problem is, to the maximum possible extent, addressed here in Canada, no change in current law or practice with respect to extradition will be made to address the situation of war criminals specifically. That is not to say that extradition will not be carried out in any circumstances. It is intended, as in the past, to consider extradition requests in a manner consistent with existing law and traditional arrangements and practice.

The commission also makes a number of recommendations suggesting the streamlining and consolidation of Canada's legal processes with respect to the revocation of citizenship and deportation. As recognized by the commission, the proposed changes raise difficult questions which must be carefully reviewed and assessed. It is not proposed to make these changes. The Government believes that by applying current law and practice, together with the other changes already proposed, the underlying problems will be effectively addressed.

Canadians expect their Government to demonstrate leadership in addressing this important question. Canadians also expect that no matter how difficult the problem, the fundamental principles of fairness and equity must apply. It is not appropriate to seek to delay its resolution, nor to seek to export our responsibility to other countries. I believe that the Government's commitment, which I have outlined today, will

be effective, fair, and in keeping with the best tradition of Canadian justice.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Would it be possible, in view of certain other arrangements, for me to present the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Finance? It would take just a moment and I understand that the opposition speakers will want to speak extensively in reply to this statement by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn). It would be helpful and I would appreciate the House's indulgence.

Mr. Speaker: Will the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) indicate approval or disapproval?

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member requires unanimous consent. For my part, I have no objection.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

* * *

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

PRESENTATION OF FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in relation to the definition of scientific research development. At this time the Income Tax Act allows for a tax credit for those engaged in scientific research on behalf of business in the natural sciences and engineering sciences. This report recommends an extension of the income tax allowance to the humanities.

[Editor's note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

* * *

[Translation]

WAR CRIMINALS

REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—STATEMENT OF MINISTER

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the Minister for giving us notice of his statement and for the opportunity this morning to spend two hours examining both the report, which numbers about 1,000 pages and the statement he just made. I am of course very grateful, but I think all Members will agree that since we are looking at 1,000 pages, it would be difficult for us to respond today with the same degree of precision as the Minister. I intend to look at the details and to respond specifically to each proposals in the days to come.