

Tabling of Documents

known to me, not only as a colleague here, but personally. I have the very highest regard for the Hon. Member. I also think I can have some understanding for his feelings in this matter. However, no individual Member's feelings can take precedence over the rules and traditions of this place.

If the Hon. Member wishes to serve his constituents, then he must put himself back in grace in this House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

IMMIGRATION

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT ON IMMIGRATION LEVELS

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 67(2), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, copies of the annual report to Parliament on future immigration levels.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL REPORT ON INCOME BENEFITS FOR NEW PARENTS

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 47(2) of the Canadian Human Rights Act, I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, a special report to Parliament, by the Canadian Human Rights Commission, on income replacement benefits for new parents.

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[English]

JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

TABLING OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General. This interim report deals with the very important problem of missing children. It is important to note that the study of this issue was brought about in no small measure by the deep concerns of the Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby). He should be commended for his efforts.

IMMIGRATION

STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON IMMIGRATION LEVELS FOR 1988

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the annual report to Parliament on immigration levels for 1988. This report embodies the view shared by many of my provincial counterparts and consultative partners in the private sector, that continued increases in immigration represent many benefits for Canadians, both from the practical standpoint of economics and in social and demographic terms.

For 1988 we are announcing a level range of 125,000 to 135,000, an increase of 10,000 over 1987. As Hon. Members know, this does not represent a target, a quota, or a ceiling, but simply a planning range supported by financial and human resources for our immigration program.

It should be noted in this regard that for the first time in many years it is anticipated that the 1987 actual landings will meet if not exceed the level set for this year. We expect a similar accomplishment in 1988 as well.

This kind of success demonstrates to Canadians that we place a great deal of importance on immigration as a vital part of Canada's development as a nation. There has been some discussion of increases being spread over a three-year period. While I considered this approach, I concluded a one-year announcement was appropriate. The basic reason for that is that my department is currently conducting a productivity review with External Affairs to consider ways in which a greater efficiency in processing immigrants could provide for a greater number of admissions. I would like to await the results of this review next year before considering what levels we should have in 1989 and beyond.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, many Canadians still believe the old story that immigrants steal jobs from Canadians, which is just not true. The increased consumption of goods and services due to immigration has the further effect of providing for a net increase in jobs and economic activity in this country. Canadians should realize that immigrant business people alone, who represent less than 3.5 per cent of all immigrants, annually inject more than \$1 billion into the Canadian economy.

However, aside from the very significant economic benefits for Canada, the primary objective of Canada's immigration policy is still family reunification, which is reflected both in the principles underlying this report and in the increased levels forecast for 1988.

Mr. Speaker, we expect that 50,000 immigrants in the family class will be admitted to Canada in 1988. If more are eligible, they are welcome.

This figure is the highest one for family class immigrants since 1981. I may add that under the present Government, this figure has increased by more than 25 per cent since 1984.