

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

thing new but has been in existence for a variety of occupational groups for a number of years. Examples of other groups where regional pay differentials exist are the education group, education support group, ships' officers, general labour and trades, general services, hospital services, printing operations, ship repair and ships' crews groups.

It is the intention of the government to extend the policy of regional pay differentials to other occupational groups where it is feasible and appropriate to do so, that is, to those groups where the outside pay data indicate significant regional variations from the Canadian average, where the area of recruitment and mobility of employees is limited and where the population of a group is distributed in two or more regions.

These circumstances are typically found in groups in the operational category and administrative support category, but exist in groups in other categories as well. Where these circumstances exist, it is considered more equitable and operationally more effective to establish rates of pay on a regional basis.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—REPRESENTATIONS TO PREMIER KOSYGIN ON RIGHT OF SOVIET JEWS TO EMIGRATE AND RIGHTS OF OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) certain questions regarding his agenda with Premier Kosygin on the occasion of his official visit to Canada. I asked the Prime Minister whether he would discuss with Premier Kosygin the problem of visits by Soviet citizens to relatives in Canada and the reunification of families split by the Iron Curtain. In reply the Prime Minister asked me what I would like him to say to Premier Kosygin. In order to rely to the Prime Minister I put this matter on for the adjournment debate this evening.

I would like the Prime Minister to ask Premier Kosygin two things: first, as a general rule, that he allow Soviet citizens to visit members of their families living in Canada; second, as a general rule, that he allow Soviet citizens to emigrate from the Soviet Union especially where this will assist in uniting families. In both these matters I think we should appeal to the humanitarian instincts of the Soviet Premier. We should also remind him that the Soviet Union agreed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states in article 13 (2) that everyone has a right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his own country.

From recent news reports it would appear that Premier Kosygin might agree to such a request. Yesterday there was a report that the Soviet government made a significant gesture to world Jewry by stating that it is willing to release its grip on Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate to

Israel. That is one good sign, Mr. Speaker. Another good sign was reported in the newspapers to the effect that the well known Russian atomic scientist, Andrei Sakharov, states that he appealed to the Soviet government to allow Soviet citizens to emigrate if they wished, saying, "A free country cannot resemble a cage even if it is gilded and supplied with good food."

I would ask the Prime Minister, therefore, to put these matters on the agenda for discussion with Premier Kosygin when he visits this country and to put to him this important point that I have raised.

• (10:10 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Barnett J. Danson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to reply to my colleague the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) and to commend him for his concern on this rather important matter, one which I think concerns members on all sides of the House and from all parties.

The government intends to pursue the inquiries made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of Premier Kosygin last May concerning emigration of Soviet Jewry to Israel or other countries of their choice, and to raise again the question of the reunification of Soviet citizens of all ethnic origins with their relatives in Canada. The government has always supported the principle of freedom of movement of persons between countries but recognizes that the movement of a national citizen is one of national sovereignty.

This does not detract from the concern which we all share. I had the privilege of visiting the Soviet Union with the Prime Minister when he had talks in the Kremlin and these matters were discussed, and I thought they were very well received by Premier Kosygin. At that time many people in Canada who were deeply concerned about relatives and people of like culture or religion in the Soviet Union had made representations to many of us who were going there. We appealed on behalf of Soviet citizens who had applied to come to Canada and whom Canada had agreed to accept, and received a positive response from the Soviet premier.

In subsequent discussions as we travelled through the country with Soviet officials the hon. member for High Park (Mr. Deakon), the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Haidasz) and myself had an opportunity to pursue these objectives on a personal basis. Certainly they are subjects which were discussed in May and will be discussed again on the occasion of Premier Kosygin's visit to Canada, when we hope he will receive a warm reception and realize the desire of many of our citizens to see their families and their culture flourish in their homeland that they may be able to express themselves culturally and religiously.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.16 p.m.