

Affairs and of his parliamentary secretary, may I address my question to the acting minister if there is one or, if not, to the Prime Minister. Will the minister give consideration to the petition of Herman Weisz which was referred to earlier today and which alleges a serious injustice done to a public servant. Will he make a statement remedying the injustice if he finds it exists?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will gladly take notice of the question on behalf of the minister.

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IMMIGRATION

PROPOSED ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT BY ETHNIC COMMUNITY LEADERS TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF BACKLOG OF APPEALS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I am a little embarrassed because the hon. member for Parkdale has alluded to this issue by way of a motion under Standing Order 43, but perhaps it is a legitimate question. In view of the tragic suicide in Toronto of a Polish woman who came here in 1968 and was ordered deported yesterday, will the government consider, as a matter of urgency, a proposal to invite leaders of Canadian ethnic communities to assist the government in evolving an equitable and speedy technique for solving what is obviously a serious problem posed by the substantial backlog of applications to the appeal board which are still pending?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The minister has stated on a number of occasions that he is considering new legislation to meet some of the problems which have resulted in this backlog. He has, of course, been in consultation with various ethnic groups across the country in an informal way. He also has the benefit of the advice of Members of Parliament, many of them members of our party, who have given him valuable advice on matters affecting ethnic groups.

SUICIDE OF ALICIA WIERCIOCH—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would request the Minister of Manpower and Immigration to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Alicia Wiercioch?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The circumstances, in so far as they concern our administration, are reasonably well known. The application was rejected many months ago and the appellant's lawyer lodged an appeal with the federal court. It was while this appeal was pending, and no action was being taken on it, that the death occurred. At that time the immigration and manpower people had not been engaged in any way in pursuing the case. We were waiting for the pursuance of the motion in the federal court. As far as other circumstances are concerned, I do not believe they are under the jurisdiction of this government.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Would the Prime Minister give consideration to getting rid of some of the members of the Immigration Appeal Board?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF LAW

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): My question is a short supplementary. In light of the facts that have come out in questions and other hon. members have put concerning Canada's immigration policy, can the Prime Minister tell us whether there is anything on the tracing board with reference to changing the rules governing immigration, particularly when deserving people are held up and other kinds of people are permitted to enter Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will check. The hon. member referred to some board. I am not sure to which board he was referring.

• (1500)

Mr. Woolliams: May I repeat my question. I thought it was clear; perhaps it was not. In light of the facts brought out in questions and answers with reference to immigration, is there anything on the government's tracing board to change immigration policy whereby deserving people will get their applications to stay in Canada heard and those who are not deserving will be kept out?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will ask the minister to read the hon. member's question. I am still not familiar with the kind of board to which he has referred.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre has a supplementary, but again I bring to the attention of the House that we are running short of time. There are a number of distinguished colleagues in the fourth and fifth rows who fell by the wayside yesterday and I should like the opportunity of recognizing them today.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ORDER FOR DEPORTATION OF TUAN VU

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister, in consultation with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, give consideration to asking the Immigration Appeal Board to reconsider the deportation order in the case of Tuan Vu since, if the order is implemented, he will almost certainly face execution in South Viet Nam?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a particular case of which I have no knowledge. If the hon. member will send me the name of the person I will look into the matter.