

I simply want to conclude by saying I do not want a stock answer from the parliamentary secretary. I want him to review this case. Let me quote one paragraph from the *Winnipeg Tribune* of May 8 as follows:

Surely officials of this department can lift their noses out of their sacred rule books and see before them a young man who has said he wants to swim for Canada, wants to practice law in Canada after graduation, and most important, wants to help other young Canadian swimmers. Or is Canada over-stocked with individuals of such special abilities?

What are we doing in this country? There are people who are willing to contribute and offer support. In fact there is a petition which came from Winnipeg today with 5,000 names. They know Steve Badger. They know he wants to qualify and can fulfil the requirements. He cannot qualify, but someone who has broken the law apparently can. Mr. Speaker, I want an answer.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Arthur Portelance (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain briefly the remarks made this afternoon by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) in answer to the question of the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) concerning Mr. Steven Badger. First I want to make it clear that the present immigrant status enjoyed by Mr. Badger is not corollary to his eventually becoming a member of the Canadian Olympic swimming team. The latter case is exclusively subject to the Olympic rules.

These rules first require that competitors be citizens of the country they represent. Under the Canadian citizenship legislation, Mr. Badger would therefore have, in order to apply for citizenship in our country, to have been a resident in Canada for five years. However, a more recent Olympic ruling applicable to the citizens of the Commonwealth travelling to member countries might allow Mr.

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Badger to swim with the Canadian Olympic team. Once again, the immigrant status of Mr. Badger in Canada would not be the deciding factor.

I should like to add certain facts pertaining to Mr. Badger's wish to obtain landed immigrant status in Canada: Mr. Badger first came to Canada as a student in November 1974. In September 1975, he went to our office in San Francisco and applied for permanent residence in Canada. He then gave an address in Kansas City, though he lived in Canada under his status as a student. The request was therefore turned down since, as a student, Mr. Badger did not meet all selection criteria as an immigrant.

On February 17, 1976, Mr. Badger got in touch with our office in Winnipeg and requested permanent entry in Canada without leaving the country. We explained to Mr. Badger that he could not be allowed in as an immigrant. Humanitarian considerations alone could justify an exception to Canadian immigration criteria, and this case does not seem to involve any.

The eligibility of Mr. Badger for landed immigrant status does not depend at all on his success or his failure to become a member of our Olympic team.

According to the selection procedure, the people of all countries—except for sponsored people and refugees—must meet the same criteria to become immigrants. Mr. Badger is free to make his application at one of our offices abroad. If he did so, his case would be evaluated as in September last according to the criteria and his ability to become an immigrant would then be decided upon.

[*English*]

May I just add a few words concerning one of the remarks of the hon. member for Provencher in respect of the list of special permits. I would refer him to the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the committee of last Tuesday afternoon. At that committee an explanation was given concerning the reason these permits were issued.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.27 p.m.