

On several occasions I have made the point that the use of French in federal departments and agencies is declining, be it in the case of the RCMP which is cutting staff, or the Canadian Security Intelligence Service which is the target of 1,400 complaints, or again the numerous departmental cut-backs. I am referring particularly to linguistic training where staff have been reduced by half and programs are down 25 per cent. I would like to ask the Government when it will have enough courage to introduce legislation to amend the Official Languages Act and put teeth in it just so we in this House might know what the Government plans to do with respect to official languages?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, first may I say that I totally disagree with the premises of and the lengthy introduction to the question of my colleague from Ottawa—Vanier. With respect to linguistic training, the Government is still fully aware of the need for this program. We are trying to make it more effective and more properly geared to the requirements of our employees. This is what we are doing, Mr. Speaker, and what we will continue to do in this field.

As to a more comprehensive linguistic reform, I believe the Prime Minister has said on many occasions that we expect to be in a position to introduce legislative proposals in the House in the very near future.

DEMAND FOR DETAILED INFORMATION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is a strong advocate of patience. They say: "Wait, we will come up with something one of these days." In the meantime problems do crop up, and I have raised this issue many times in the House. One problem was raised in committee yesterday. Can the Minister tell us today—while we wait for a Bill which only God knows when it will be tabled—what this Government will do to make the presence of francophones more visible in the upper echelons of the departments under his responsibility?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier says: God knows when. It is not God knows when—the Government knows when. The Government knows it will not be long now. As Member of a Government which did not do anything since the enactment of the legislation 17 years ago—

Oral Questions

• (1500)

[English]

IMMIGRATION

APPEAL BOARD'S OVERRULING OF MINISTER'S DEPORTATION ORDER

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Immigration regarding a disturbing issue in British Columbia. How can three members of an Immigration Appeal Board, who were appointed prior to September 4, 1984, be allowed to overrule the common sense and good judgment shown by the Minister himself, and also the immigration laws of this country, and give a stay of deportation to a man who has pleaded guilty to, and been convicted of, several counts of buggery and indecent exposure?

Will the Minister assure the Members of this House that he will not allow this potentially dangerous individual to stay in this country, and that he will take immediate action to protect the safety and well-being of the Canadian people by deporting this man without delay?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, we issued a deportation order. As a landed immigrant, the person had a right to an appeal before the Immigration Appeal Board. They stayed the execution. My officials filed a motion to have the hearing reopened. It was dismissed. It is inappropriate for me to comment on a judgment of a quasi-judicial body such as the Immigration Appeal Board.

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AGRICULTURE

SPECIAL CANADIAN GRAINS PROGRAM—SOYABEAN PAYMENTS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister will know, according to his departmental hand-outs, that the billion dollar pay-out provides Ontario farmers with pay-outs of \$32.20 an acre for wheat; \$45.53 an acre for corn, but only \$7.80 an acre for soyabeans. Would he briefly explain to the House why soyabean production is being discouraged in Ontario?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, soyabean production is not being discouraged nor is it being encouraged by the program at all. If the Hon. Member wants to be critical of the farmers' formula, then let the Hon. Member be critical of it. I want to be complimentary and congratulate the farm leaders who worked long and hard and put together a very fair and equitable formula.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member for York West on a supplementary to a previous question.