

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

• (1425)

Mr. Weiner: The Hon. Member for York West wants favours which should not be available to any other Canadian.

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, the only sleaze is in not answering the question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I think I have indicated to both sides that appropriate use of language would probably be more in keeping with the traditions of this place. I know the Hon. Member for York West can put a very good question.

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, I make no apologies for making representations to the Government, but it is when there is a second law, when orders are executed to circumvent the law, that there is impropriety and sleaze. I challenge the Member to show where my impropriety was any day of this week.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the Hon. Member for York West to put his question.

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DEPARTMENT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I would return to the Prime Minister who is not answering questions. Pretending that the problems do not exist only breeds more problems. Given the fact that we have had the John Quigley affair, a petition signed by 7,000 employees against the Deputy Minister, people tampering with the mail from the Department—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. Tobin: If you guys would shut up, you would get a question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York West will complete his question.

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know what is happening with our Immigration Department. Will the Government take special measures to clean up the mess in order to restore the confidence of Canadians in an immigration policy and a Government that is losing the trust of the people who are not naive enough to believe that there is not a double standard here? The quicker it is before a public inquiry, the better it will be for the Government.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, the accusations are unfair and untrue. There was never any involvement by the Prime Minister's Office in that particular dossier or in any dossier. What I have done has been recognized by other Hon. Members of the House. I have been

complimented in speeches made by members of the very same Party as the Hon. Member, and by members of the New Democratic Party, on the quality of service they have received, as have all Hon. Members.

We looked at the justification of the case. It took some four months from the time I examined the file of this individual and we realized that there was a basis for inland processing. Each year, 15,000 Minister's permits are issued, almost 25 per cent of the cases—

Mr. Marchi: What are the justifications? What is the basis?

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has, fulfilling the wishes of this place, given the Hon. Member for York West every opportunity to put the question. I think that fairness demands that Hon. Members on the other side give the Minister every chance to answer it.

Mr. Weiner: Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to table this correspondence if my hon. friend would agree to it so that all Hon. Members would be able to read what he said to me.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Weiner: Do you agree?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister may have some more comments to make in answer to the question. I would ask him to answer the question.

Mr. Weiner: What I do recognize is the manner in which our refugee determination process is being received across the country. I recognize that it has almost universal acclaim, that it puts forward a process that is fair, reasonable and just, and that that is now bothering the Opposition. They are trying to open another front. Where is your credibility? Where is your honesty?

• (1430)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO DECISION

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. He said in one of his answers that he acts in these matters "where criteria and conditions warrant it". Exactly what were the conditions and criteria that warranted the action taken on the Grossmann case? Give us a complete and clear answer right now.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, the gentleman was here under a Canada/France exchange program. He had received employment authorization permits for six consecutive years. The current permit would have expired on September 30. He has a son who is apparently married to a Canadian and I guess could have sponsored him. Those looked like good long-term prospects for remaining in this country given the kind of contribution he would make. It just seemed to me there would be no reason to have him leave