

IMMIGRATION

INQUIRY AS TO REVISION OF
APPEAL PROCEDURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Now that the white paper has been produced is the minister prepared to bring forward a new immigration act? Let me give him an example of what I wish to bring to his attention. When an inquiry takes place to determine the right of a foreigner to remain in Canada, if he is arrested and bail is refused by an inquiry officer the minister's department now takes the position in no uncertain terms that the individual has no right to appeal to a high court. The result is that in some cases men and women from other lands remain in jail for as long as 80 days.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I could not determine whether the hon. member was making a statement or asking a question. If he is asking a question perhaps he will indicate what it is, and indicate its urgency.

Mr. Woolliams: The urgency of this matter relates to the fact that there are a number of men and women from other lands in jails in Canada under the provisions of the Immigration Act. My question was very simple. Is the minister prepared now to bring in a new immigration act which will rectify the situation to which I have referred? I should like to hear from the minister in this regard.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there is now a bill before this house relating to the board of appeal. I believe that when this bill is adopted by the house these new immigrants will have the right to appeal and decisions will be made much sooner than they are made now.

Mr. Woolliams: I have a supplementary question. This bill will be discussed at a later date, but I should like to ask the minister to consider this situation because there are men and women incarcerated in jails in Canada without any right to bail, while awaiting long inquiries to be made by his department.

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, I will look into the situation.

Inquiries of the Ministry
LABOUR CONDITIONSMALTON, ONT.—LAY-OFFS AT DOUGLAS
AIRCRAFT PLANT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I should like to answer a question posed yesterday by the hon. member for York South concerning a situation at the Douglas Aircraft plant at Malton.

The company says that it is a coincidence that a shortage of parts has necessitated the lay-off of assembly workers under training just prior to the arrival, on October 25, of a group of skilled immigrants recruited by the company in Britain. If that is so the coincidence is certainly unfortunate. Officials of my department are keeping in close touch with the situation and with the Ontario government, which supports the on the job training program at the plant. I will inform the hon. member what action, if any, is called for as soon as I have the full information needed to make such a determination.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR PRIOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF UNIFICATION AND INTEGRATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is designed to be co-operative and constructive, and I should like to address it to the Minister of National Defence. It relates to a very serious matter. In view of the criticism, confusion and turmoil relative to the policy of integration and unification of the armed forces, will he now reconsider his decision not to have the defence committee meet until government policy in respect of the proposed legislation has in principle become a fait accompli?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have been giving this matter a great deal of consideration, and one of the points that arose in my mind was the responsibility that this house has for taking decisions on principle. I also considered the fact that the government in presenting legislation is accepting a responsibility for the principle that it espouses.

In view of those circumstances I feel it would be an abdication of the responsibility of government and of this house not to deal with the matter in principle. For that reason I believe we should follow the normal course. I can assure my hon. friend that I will be