

*Oral Questions***IMMIGRATION****RE-ENTRY PERMIT SYSTEM**

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In view of the fact that the new Immigration Act came into effect in April with a provision requiring that certain steps be taken by landed immigrants who leave Canada for more than six months, would the minister inform this House and the public about the specifics of the re-entry permit system so as to prevent hardships and difficulties for bona fide returning residents?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the returning resident requirement does not apply to Canadian citizens. It was put into effect as an accommodation to permanent residents, some of whom found, as a result of being sent out of the country by their employers or because they had to move back to their homeland to straighten out business or private affairs, that they would have concern about getting back into the country; so as an accommodation to returning residents, that particular rule was put in place. It is not meant to be a hurdle to overcome: it is an accommodation to permanent residents.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT ON STATE OF CORPORATION**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Last Thursday, admittedly after a rather heavy week, the Prime Minister answered the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi about CBC coverage of the federal-provincial conference. In the last part of his answer on page 728 of *Hansard*, the Prime Minister said:

I am sometimes amused when the CBC talks about the terrible state of the country, considering the terrible state of the CBC.

The Prime Minister has been the leader of the government for ten years. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is a Crown corporation which spends over half a billion dollars. The president and the board of directors are all order in council appointments. I would like the Prime Minister to explain what he meant by "the terrible state of the CBC". Was he talking about the CBC in total or Radio-Canada? Has he expressed this concern to the Secretary of State, who is responsible? Would the Prime Minister please explain what he meant, as leader of this government, about a top Crown corporation to which he makes all the appointments?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I explained it on television at the conference proper when I commented on the technical difficulties that the CBC had experienced on the first day of the conference. If the hon. member had been following the proceedings, he would have seen that as a rather light reference to the difficulties the CBC

[Mr. Chrétien.]

had. I stand by my remarks. The CBC is very critical of many institutions in Canada. It should not be without criticism itself nor beyond the scope of criticism. I often hear it from the other side.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, then can we assume from what the Prime Minister says today that when he referred to the terrible state of the CBC—this was after the conference—it was about the technical difficulties which we all noticed during the conference, that he was not making a blanket condemnation of CBC and that the fact that \$71 million was cut from the CBC budget is not related to the Prime Minister's indigestion?

Mr. Trudeau: Oh, no, Mr. Speaker, I never make blanket condemnations, except sometimes of the hon. member. I think in the case of the CBC I was referring to some specific and recent events. The hon. member knows that I am a great admirer of the CBC and the media in general.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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● (1452)

FINANCE**DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET**

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): I take it, Mr. Speaker, that the response from across the floor is in reaction to the last Gallup poll, and I accept that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: My question is—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Whatever the cause might be, I wonder if hon. members could restrain their enthusiasm sufficiently to enable us to continue the question period.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, who said this morning that it was too early in the day for him to know whether or not the government had decided on a budget date. It is now later in the day, and I wonder if the minister can tell us if the government has decided on a budget date and, if so, when the budget will be brought down to the House of Commons.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the day is not over yet.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, the day might not be over, but certainly the government is finished.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!