

matter, and I do not have to elaborate on that, why did the Minister of Public Works not take the RCMP and the Solicitor General into his confidence with respect to the procedure and safeguards which would be required, as was revealed this morning?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure of this revelation this morning. I have been in close consultation with my colleague, the Minister of Justice, however.

Mr. Alexander: I will repeat it. Why did the minister not contact the Solicitor—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Speaker: One supplementary. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Alexander: Why did this minister not contact the Solicitor General and the Commissioner of the RCMP in order to determine what type of safeguards would best serve the public interest? That is a simple question; may I have a short answer?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think that the centre for knowledge in respect of these matters should be properly within the Department of Justice which maintains contact with police forces.

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IMMIGRATION

POSSIBILITY OF VIETNAMESE BEING DECLARED INTERNATIONAL REFUGEES

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration is supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Parkdale. Can any statement be made in respect of the negotiations that have taken place between officials of the minister's department and officials of the United Nations, specifically the High Commissioner for Refugees, about whether there is any possibility of Vietnamese refugees being declared international refugees in order that the international community can place representations before either the PRG or Hanoi in respect of allowing those people who received exit visas, such as were given by Canada, to be reunited with their families?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there has been no decision to declare an international refugee movement as a result of discussions with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. When people are in a country other than their own as a result of the persecution of their country, they become refugees in the eyes of those countries that have signed the covenant, of which Canada is one, and are to be dealt with on an official basis.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees subscribes to this and at the moment is concentrating on potential moves to generally alleviate the situation within Viet Nam, whether it be north or south, on a day by day basis. We are in constant communication, and if there is a

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change in the decision we will be prepared to subscribe to the conditions. In answer to an earlier question about what we are doing on our own, I said that we would join in any movement the High Commissioner would be disposed to announce later.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF NEW TEXTILE POLICY

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Given the serious situation of Quebec's textile and clothing industry, does he intend to make a statement soon in the House in order to set up a new national policy of textile and clothing in Canada?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have made a number of statements in respect of the government's response to reports of the Textile and Clothing Board. I am awaiting a report with respect to the recent hearings on apparel that took place in Montreal. I should advise the House that I have asked my department to conduct a review of the policy and the Textile Act and this has already begun.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

In the process of review he has just announced, does the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce intend to have consultations on the matter with the leaders and workers of that important industry?

[English]

Mr. Gillespie: We will be consulting with both the management of the companies and the representatives of the workers, Mr. Speaker. I expect to meet with them very shortly, probably within the next couple of weeks.

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HOUSING

REQUEST FOR EARLY COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION ON LEBRETON FLATS PROJECT

Mr. Hugh Poulin (Ottawa-Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs which relates to the Lebreton flats housing project, within walking distance of this House. It is obvious that since we are in a period of rising unemployment and decreasing housing starts—

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member has a question would he please put it.

Mr. Poulin: —that this project is one of high priority. Yet despite the fact that the land is federally owned, the