

IMMIGRATION

WORK PERMITS TO U.S. CITIZENS OPERATING MEAT STORES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I intended to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Perhaps either the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs could answer it, but in their absence I will direct it to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. His officials were taking part in the grading of the product in respect of which my question is related. Could the minister advise the house or find out why United States citizens were granted permission to enter Canada, and on what basis they were granted work permits to operate such fraudulent and defrauding discount meat outlets in Ontario as are referred to in the *Globe and Mail* this morning?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): This is something we are looking into, Mr. Speaker, and I had discussions on this subject with my officials this morning. This matter has been referred to the proper law authorities of the crown, and I shall be glad to reply more fully to my hon. friend later on. If parliament is not sitting at the time I will be glad to write him.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General or the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture whether the meat concerned in this case had been properly inspected and marked, or whether it was being sold illegally from that point of view.

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I respectfully suggest that no comment ought to be made at this time. Charges have been laid, but everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Until the charges have been disposed of I suggest we should let the matter stand.

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, my question really was whether charges had been laid in respect of the sale of uninspected meat.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Trade and Commerce is endeavouring to obtain this information would he also ascertain whether these United States citizens will be deported to their own country after they have served any term that may be imposed?

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Winters: Mr. Speaker, I think the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs could perhaps amplify on what has been said.

[Translation]

Mr. Ovide Laflamme (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the various questions which have been put in connection with the report which appeared in today's newspapers, the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs had been informed, last January, especially by the hon. member for Wellington South (Mr. Hales), about that meat business. The department referred the matter to the meat inspection division of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of National Health and Welfare and also the standards branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce. All that led, of course, to arrests in which the Department of Immigration took an active part.

[English]

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

REPORTED B.C. REFUSAL TO ACCEPT COURT RULING ON OFF-SHORE RIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources could I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister and ask whether he is aware of the defiance uttered by the government of British Columbia in respect of the ruling of the Supreme Court in regard to off-shore mineral rights, and the statement by ministers of the government of British Columbia that they will collect royalties regardless of the Supreme Court ruling.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend was good enough to send me a copy of his question. I have no knowledge of this report, which if accurate would indeed be astonishing.

Mr. Lambert: We are not surprised at anything that comes out of British Columbia.

PROPOSED STUDY OF UNION OF ATLANTIC PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the announcement yesterday by the Atlantic premiers that a serious