

wrong in South Viet Nam, can the Minister of Immigration explain just how this gangster was allowed to enter Canada and just how long it will take the department to eject him in the interest of maintaining at least a semblance of fair play in our Immigration Department?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): General Quang, his wife and three children are in Montreal; I cannot attest to whether or not they are in luxurious surroundings. The three children were admitted as visitors from April 19 to July 19, having been issued visitors visas in Saigon on April 15. The General was admitted on May 15 under a minister's permit, valid until May 13 of next year. He has applied to remain permanently. We will be examining that application. He applied under the refugee program, of which hon. members are aware. I do not think it would be appropriate for me to comment further until we have gathered all the information and attested to the validity or otherwise of the allegations, some of which the hon. member made. Our decision will be made at a later date.

● (1430)

Mr. Blackburn: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister to what extent RCMP and immigration officials investigated this man's background, the amount of money that he was going to bring into the country, how much he in fact brought in and so on? How many of these facts were assembled before the minister granted a permit to this man to enter?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, he came in as a refugee. He had proceeded from Fort Chaffee in the United States and entered the country, but he is under a minister's permit which does not make any permanent commitment by the government to his residence here. All of the information that the hon. member is suggesting be gathered is now being gathered by the agencies to which he referred.

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AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE MEAT UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION DOES NOT ENTER INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister tell the House what safeguards his department is taking or what investigation he is causing to be made to ensure that there is no interprovincial trade in meat designated unfit for human consumption?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have jurisdiction over all meat that is traded interprovincially. It is supposed to carry an inspection stamp; it is supposed to be inspected as fit for human consumption. Any meat used for pet food does not come under our jurisdiction.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister what steps he is taking to ensure that meat unfit for human consumption or meat that has not been inspected by his department is not getting into other provinces, in view of the revelations now taking place in Quebec?

Oral Questions

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, under the British North America Act we have authority to inspect plants within our jurisdiction. I have received a complete report which will take several minutes or even longer to read, but I should be glad to put something together or table it if that is what the hon. member wants.

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO INCREASE FEDERAL INSPECTION OF MEAT IN QUEBEC

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister might agree to table the report, but in the meantime could he tell the House what initiatives he is taking with the government of Quebec to increase federal inspection jurisdiction in the province, in view of the fact that more than 85 per cent of all Ontario meat is now federally inspected?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have offered the same services to any province of Canada. We are prepared to offer co-operation and provide our inspection services, etc. I understand that some talks have taken place between federal and provincial officials concerning provision of this inspection service, but we cannot force upon them our inspection services.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—GOVERNMENT POLICY ON COLLECTION OF OVER-PAYMENTS—REASON FOR ALLEGED DELAY IN SENDING REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. In view of the fact that prior to the last election many over-payments were made to farmers under the two-price wheat special permits payment program, has it been the policy of the government since the election and is it still the policy to collect all these over-payments from the farmers?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is. As soon as the computer error which allowed these over-payments was discovered, letters requesting repayment were issued and a very high percentage of the amounts have now been refunded; but action is continuing in relation to the balance.

Mr. Yewchuk: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate whether any punitive action is contemplated or does the government intend to take to court farmers who are not in a financial position to repay these over-payments?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the usual collection procedures are in play, which means that if somebody intending to make a repayment wishes an arrangement over time, we will naturally take that into consideration, but not as a means of escaping payment. Legal action is instituted if a person refuses to make a payment.