

Inquiries of the Ministry

make Canada a haven for those in the United States who do not desire to face up to their responsibilities as citizens of that nation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): No.

DEPORTATION OF DESERTERS FROM
YUGOSLAV VESSEL

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the minister's reply to the last question was a model of terseness, and I hope his answer to my question will be simply "yes". My question relates to a notice signed by the deputy minister of manpower on Saturday regarding two Yugoslav ship deserters, Slavko Smoljan and Anton Ivanchev, who have been ordered deported to their country of origin. Is it not a fact that this is the first time a person who has sought political refuge from communism in Canada has been ordered deported back to a communist country? Will the minister obtain the opinion of the governor in council in this connection?—because that is the only way freedom can be assured. I ask the minister to give serious consideration to this situation because surely we in Canada do not want to drive back those who have left communism.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, you rose to interrupt me—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I rose because I felt the question had been asked at that point.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, this is an extremely delicate matter.

I was not here Saturday when the order was issued, but the case had been discussed previously and I assume full responsibility for it. We studied several cases concerning Yugoslav seamen who had jumped ship. We tried to treat them as generously as possible. We agreed, in that case, that some seamen who had entered Canada illegally could stay here, even if normally we should have deported them, as long as they met the statutory admission requirements, that is to say we felt that if those people had been able to file an application in their country and had been found acceptable, we would have accepted them and kept them.

As far as the others are concerned, Mr. Speaker, I believe that no government can accept the simple statement of an immigrant

that he is a political refugee as reason enough to consider him as such.

So, we looked into the matter. I had someone check personally to find out if the Yugoslav sailors who returned to Yugoslavia were persecuted. After checking twice, the Canadian embassy reported that they were not persecuted. Should one single case of persecution be reported, the policy of the department will be changed completely with regard to the Yugoslav sailors who, until now, have been treated exactly like the Greek or Polish or any other sailors who try to enter the country illegally.

[*English*]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, of course the minister has been away for some time. I suggest that this particular case is alike in every particular to the case of Martil Bilic, the Yugoslav seaman who jumped ship at Sorrel, Quebec. I ask the minister to look into this situation and indicate to this house tomorrow why these two deserters are not qualified for citizenship in this country?

Mr. Marchand: Did the right hon. gentleman mention Mr. Martin Bilic?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes.

Mr. Marchand: I believe that Mr. Martin Bilic was authorized to stay in Canada under a ministerial permit.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What is the difference between his case and the case of these two men, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, this is another case. I shall have to look into the circumstances.

Mr. Diefenbaker: All right. The minister does not know the case about which I am speaking.

CANADA LABOUR (STANDARDS) CODE
IMPLEMENTATION IN SHIPPING INDUSTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary secretary, in the absence of the Minister of Labour. Will that hon. gentleman indicate whether any steps have been taken to bring together the shipping industry itself, or the shipping industry and the various organized unions in that industry, in order to work out a formula to put into effect the hours of work section of the Canada Labour (Standards) Code?