

season is over or until regional offices are opened.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct an impression left by the hon. gentleman who asked the question. I had an examination made of the number of people who have applied for passports; these are people who would ordinarily be applying for a renewal. Such people constitute only 15 per cent of those applying. So these applications are not serious when one considers how to deal effectively with the problem. As I have said many times, the problem arises from the enormous increase in the travel requirements of the Canadian public.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister thought of making representations to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration so that British subjects who have resided in this country for a long time may temporarily, until the peak of the tourist season has passed this summer, be allowed to travel even though they have not secured a certificate of Canadian citizenship? This, it seems, would help the situation to some extent.

Mr. Sharp: As I said to the house, temporary passports are being issued under the circumstances.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister had an opportunity to consider the question I asked as to whether he would explore the possibility of making similar arrangements with France in the interest of Canadians who might wish to visit France?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we have been looking into a number of these measures. I do not feel it will be necessary. The peak of the passports applications is now past.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Sharp: I repeat, Mr. Speaker, the peak of the applications has passed and I expect in the next two or three weeks it will revert to a comparatively normal situation.

Mr. Stanfield: May I take it from the minister's response he is not seriously exploring the opportunity of making such an arrangement with France?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. This matter is being explored.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Is there discrimination against the French speaking—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact the minister told the house last Thursday that the persons who received these certificates of citizenship would travel at their own risk, can he give an undertaking that certificates of citizenship will be issued which will enable persons to travel to Great Britain without having to run any risk? May I also ask the minister to tell this house what administrative genius changed these regulations without having application forms printed—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Can the minister advise how or why it is when members or their secretaries phone the passport office they receive the perennial answer "We cannot locate the passport or the application"?

PASSPORTS—AVAILABILITY OF NEW APPLICATION FORMS—PRICE OF TEMPORARY PASSPORTS

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): I wish to ask the minister how soon he expects to have the new application forms available for the general public and instructions given to the public so they know how to apply.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, they will begin to be distributed next week.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if the price of a temporary passport is the same as that of a normal one?

[English]

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs, perhaps on a purely housekeeping basis, arrange to have individual chairs in the passport offices so that elderly people do not have to stand for hours or until they collapse?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): In view of the reply the minister made to a