

the report, or at least I cannot find it in the report—but I will check it out in keeping with the hon. member's question.

POSSIBILITY OF INTERCESSION BY BANKS ON BEHALF OF FIVE DRAGONS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): The *China Post* of Hong Kong has indicated that the net worth of Lui Luk, one of the Five Dragons, is some \$500 million. I wonder if the minister could advise us, in view of the fact that he has now had an opportunity to examine the record, to examine the circumstances, whether any banking official in Canada or any other place interceded on behalf of any of the Five Dragons to encourage their immigration to this country?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): If they were bringing in that kind of money, one has to be a little wary about allegations made in the press. The information I have is that the Five Dragons—to use the phraseology we are using here—who were admitted as immigrants revealed that their declared assets ranged from \$53,000 to \$341,000, hardly the millions referred to by the CBC or in the newspaper article.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY AS TO MEASURES TO PROTECT CHICKEN PRODUCERS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Yesterday, during the question period, I advised the Minister of Finance of the serious concern of the Canadian poultry producers about the massive poultry imports into Canada from the United States. In his reply, the minister said this, and I quote:

Mr. Speaker, I take the question as notice for my colleague and I will ask him to answer the hon. member.

In view of the seriousness of the matter, although only 24 hours have elapsed since then, as transportation is very swift and trucks are coming in fully loaded causing the producers even greater alarm today, can the minister tell the House whether in fact he has advised his colleague of the situation, and can he tell the House today what steps will be taken to improve the lot of poultry producers and also to protect their industry?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, the Minister of Agriculture is aware of the situation and I believe he will be in a position to make a statement on the matter within a few days.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should have liked to put a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture who was in the House just a few

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moments ago. Since he is absent from the House now, with your permission, may I be given the floor before the end of the question period, in order to put to him that most important question?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I am advised by my colleagues that the Minister of Agriculture made his statement last night.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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● (1430)

[English]

FINANCE

SUGGESTED MONITORING OF FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO OR FROM CANADA TO IDENTIFY MONEY FROM ORGANIZED CRIMINALS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance with reference to some of the increasing activities of organized crime. Without getting into currency control in the usually accepted definition, has the minister considered exploring the feasibility of some sort of monitoring of funds which may be transferred to or from our country with the object of attempting to identify underworld or mob money which may be transferred for the purposes of laundering or investment in illicit enterprises? I think the minister would agree that even with our deficit position we do not want that kind of foreign investment, even if Lui Luk does have \$500 million.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to say to the hon. gentleman that I appreciate his bringing to my attention his intention to ask this question. I agree with the final statement the hon. gentleman has made. Without having had an opportunity to consider this very much further I think the real risk would be that we would have to monitor all private transactions and all private transfers of capital between Canada and other countries for the purpose of securing this information. As the hon. member knows, the government has not involved itself in investigating the capital transactions of all Canadians or of all persons bringing money into this country. I think that the impact on the private sector of attempting to do this would require some very careful consideration, even though the purpose the hon. gentleman suggests is a laudible one.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's answer, and I am wondering if he would consider the feasibility of consulting some financial institutions to seek their cooperation, on a voluntary basis, in attempting to be extremely vigilant, and perhaps in reporting any attempts that they could discern in order to frustrate or to foil transfers of underworld funds which it might be considered are coming in for this purpose. Could the minister give us that undertaking?