

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

On behalf of the House and all Hon. Members I want to thank the pages who were with us this year and in previous years and who came to lend us their support since the House was recalled a few weeks ago.

[English]

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the current page program, and I know all Hon. Members would join me in wishing these young men and women the very best and our thanks.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (1420)

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## IMMIGRATION

## ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING GRANTING OF IMMIGRANT STATUS

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On July 31 in *The Citizen* and on August 4 in the *The Montreal Gazette* the Prime Minister stated:

People jumping the queue unfairly, take other peoples rights and other peoples legitimate places. This breeds unfairness, and unfairness will destroy the system . . . The laws shall apply to all of us. Everyone must follow the procedures and the laws.

In light of these statements, and the serious allegations made by the president of the immigration union concerning the Mr. Grossmann case, this Prime Minister owes this House and the country a full explanation. If the Prime Minister wishes to be consistent with the statements that he made on queue jumping, will he agree to a full public inquiry into the Grossmann affair so that Canadians may assure themselves that the spirit and the immigration laws have not been violated and, if they have, that disciplinary action may be taken forcefully and immediately?

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, I categorically repudiate the allegations of that Hon. Member.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Weiner:** There was no impropriety nor illegality in the handling of the application.

My office receives thousands of letters from Canadians across the country dealing with immigration matters and, in conformity with the Immigration Act, we act in certain few cases where there are criteria or conditions that warrant it. We have certainly published all correspondence dealing with the

matter which should clarify it for that Member and all other Members in this House.

## QUEUE JUMPING ALLEGATIONS

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that the Prime Minister calls an emergency session during the summer to deal with what he terms as queue jumpers, yet he does not have the courage—

**Some Hon. Members:** Speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would remind Hon. Members that there are necessary courtesies extended to those who ask questions in this House. I would also remind Hon. Members that the Hon. Member for York West is taking the lead for the Official Opposition and I would expect that courtesy to be extended to the Hon. Member.

**Mr. Marchi:** It is not the fact, Mr. Speaker, that representations are illegal, the allegations are that queue jumping has been condoned and practised in the higher offices of this country, and they come from the union president, not from this Opposition.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** You are disowning them?

**Mr. Marchi:** Therefore, I would like to ask the Prime Minister again, if he doesn't want to agree to a public inquiry, can he explain to Canadians, who must wait six months and line up in Toronto at five o'clock in the morning, why the Immigration Department sent three separate orders to speed up the interview for Mr. Grossmann? What compelling humanitarian concerns existed to allow Mr. Grossmann to make an application in Canada rather than going the normal route for every other individual, namely, applying at our embassies abroad? Can he tell us that, at least?

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, I take particular issue with the sleazy, scurrilous manner in which the Member is raising the question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I have asked Hon. Members to extend the appropriate courtesies to questions that are being asked. I would also ask that in the reply the conventions of this place be considered. I know that the Hon. Minister understands them and I would ask him to continue his answer, perhaps with more careful language.

**Mr. Weiner:** The accusations, Mr. Speaker, are totally unfounded. I received 7,000 letters and representations in the last year, some of which have come from Members of Parliament. Here is one from the Member for York West.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Weiner:** It says "Could we talk on this one? It would be appreciated if we could get together to see if I can get a permit for one or two weeks".