

process through Order in Council, and it is completely within the immigration law.

[*Translation*]

DEMAND FOR EXPLANATION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to find out from the Minister why they went over the heads of officials. Why did they use intimidating measures with the officials? Why were pressures brought to bear from high above to accelerate the processing of the Georges Grossmann file? And why does the Minister refuse to answer the following question: What were the humanitarian considerations which prevailed and weighed heavily in this case?

Mr. Malépart: Why it is Mila and not Brian!

Mr. Rossi: It's the Prime Minister who told him to let the man in.

An Hon. Member: Carlo, listen!

[*English*]

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): What a shameful and deplorable attack! What an issue of petty politics I have ever seen in my life! Things must look pretty good out in the country during this summer—the jobs we have created, the lower interest rates—

Mr. Gauthier: Answer the question or sit down.

Mr. Rossi: Why don't you answer the question?

Mr. Riis: You are on record, Gerry.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister.

Mr. Weiner: We are running the country so well, as even the editorialists have had to admit, that it must be shaking up the Hon. Members—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of State for Immigration and concerns the Grossmann immigration scandal.

When the local immigration office made a special provision for Mr. Grossmann to be interviewed in Paris, when he was holidaying in Paris during the summer, he did not even bother to show up for his interview.

Mr. Grossmann applied for some special consideration. The Minister says that he looked into the case and considered that there was indeed an opportunity for him to intervene. Was it

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because there is a lack of French teachers in the Ottawa area, or just what were the special circumstances which enabled the Minister to make his decision?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, clearly Mr. Grossmann had been here on employment authorization, the first one given by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry—so was the second one and so was the third one—in his capacity as Minister. We had three renewals. Now, it seemed to me that with that kind of long-term stay in the country, with children who had grown up here, a son who is apparently married to a Canadian and could have sponsored him—

Mr. Fulton: Why only “apparently”?

Mr. Weiner:—his prospects were pretty good.

When the case was referred to me, it looked perfectly normal that we should allow an inland processing. I asked my officials to do so through a Minister's permit. There was no further follow-up on the part of myself or my office because I know, once it is asked there is nothing further that has to be asked, and I knew that everything was going well.

• (1440)

INVOLVEMENT OF OFFICIALS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Minister gives the impression that this case is a very straightforward case.

Some Hon. Members: It is.

Mr. Shields: You have finally got it.

Mr. Riis: We have had the Prime Minister's office, the Minister of State's office, the Deputy Minister of Immigration's office, the Executive Director of Immigration's Office, the Deputy Minister's executive assistant's office, the Minister's office and countless other senior officials all intervening in this case. Will the Minister explain why it took all of these people's interventions to process what he says is a very straightforward immigration case?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, every Member in the House has received communication, perhaps he or she has had a letter dropped off, which has been advanced through to my office, as have many other Canadians, journalists, elected people at all levels, academics, businessmen—this is an everyday routine—all knowing that in the Immigration Act the Minister of Employment and Immigration has the authority to act on humanitarian and compassionate conditions.

Mr. Keeper: Name the journalists.