

IMMIGRATION

DATE ON WHICH EMPLOYERS MUST DETERMINE
CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration regarding the peculiar position that employers are placed in with respect to how far back they must go in order to determine which of their employees are Canadians, landed immigrants or visitors. I know the minister was going to look into this and I wonder if he has an answer in order that employers may know whether it is six months before January 1 or just what the situation is?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I did indicate to the hon. gentleman that I would get an answer for him and make it known but I regret that I have been occupied since last Thursday. This is being researched and I think the answer is that we will not take any heavyhanded action against employers who employed people without visas prior to March 31, again unless there was blatant and knowing exploitation of the situation due to other factors.

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TRANSPORT

INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT WITH MARITIME PREMIERS
ON INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATE SUBSIDY

Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport regarding yesterday's meeting with the Atlantic premiers. In view of the conflicting press reports coming out of that meeting, can the minister tell the House if he has agreed to an upward revision of the westbound subsidies on a selected product basis?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we had discussions for a couple of hours with the premiers of the Atlantic provinces. They asked for an increase of 30 per cent to 50 per cent in the subsidy for freight rates. We agreed together that this should be looked into by the federal-provincial committee on transportation in the Maritimes to see how we can apply this new principle and make a report later.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR RETENTION OF THE KILT FOR HIGHLAND
UNITS

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that Highland regiments attract recruits more easily than other militia units partly because of their traditional uniform, will the minister assure the House that he will reconsider the decision to force the Highland units to give up their cherished kilts and will he reinstitute the maintenance grants for Highland dress for those units?

Oral Questions

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, there is no regulation preventing the Highland regiments in the reserves from wearing the kilt.

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FLOODS

HIGH WATER LEVELS OF GREAT LAKES—REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE OF ARMED FORCES TO PREVENT DAMAGE

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Would the minister indicate what response, if any, has been given to the two urgent telegrams he has received, one from the township of Pickering and the other from a private citizens' group, respecting the pressing need for military assistance to avert the disastrous effects of not only high water levels but those combined with high winds to properties on the Pickering shore line?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have received the telegrams referred to. I would like the armed forces to be helpful in this flood problem, in fact I would always like them to be helpful in any way they can. I have offered their services and they have so far been declined by the responsible body which is the Emergency Measures Organization of the province of Ontario.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Cafik: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are a number of hon. members who have not had an opportunity to ask supplementaries. Before calling orders of the day the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo.

Mr. Cafik: A point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. parliamentary secretary rises on a point of order.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I have never done this before on a point of order.

An hon. Member: Don't do it now.

An hon. Member: Nobody else has.

Mr. Cafik: It is extremely important to the people affected that at least the minister indicate to the provincial authorities that many members of this House regret the inaction of the province of Ontario in protecting the people of Ontario.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!