

Oral Questions

I believe the question implied. As far as the setting up of the committee is concerned, the House leader did discuss this matter with me yesterday, indicating that such a committee would be set up later this month. He will be discussing its terms of reference with the representatives of the other parties in the usual way.

METHOD OF ARRIVING AT DECISION ON FUTURE STRUCTURE

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): With respect to the opening remarks of the right hon. gentleman may I say it is he who is misinformed as to the date of distribution. Be that as it may, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact that the report recommends various changes which would have a definite impact on residents of the national capital region affecting, as they do, the power to tax, the power to plan, to educate, the administration of justice, representation by population, the language question and a host of other things, would the minister indicate how the final decision will be taken with regard to the future structure of the national capital?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I appreciate the brief resumé of the report given by the hon. member, which is a help indeed since it indicates the breadth of its scope. Obviously, this is a question which the committee will itself take into serious consideration while it is preparing various options for study by members of this House and of the other place.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DESTRUCTION OF CANADIAN EGGS WHILE IMPORTS ALLOWED FROM UNITED STATES

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, I wish to put a question to his parliamentary secretary.

According to Statistics Canada, 41 million eggs were imported from the United States last spring and 2,160,000 more are reported to have entered our country this week. Can the parliamentary secretary tell the House why American eggs are being brought out on our market while Canadian eggs are being destroyed in our warehouses?

Mr. Léopold Corriveau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I should like to assure the hon. member that a commission has now been appointed to study egg marketing in Canada. I feel it would be very difficult to intervene before the report of that commission has been published.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

● (1450)

IMMIGRATION

CONSEQUENCES OF DEPORTATION OF HAITIANS

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister and Immigration, following the answers he gave today. My question relates to the deportation of Haitians.

In view of the fact that, according to a Geneva commission, the Duvalier regime is responsible for the death of 30,000 people over a period of 17 years and that a Haitian repressive legislation against communists includes all the people who are opposed to the regime, such as Karl Lévesque, a Jésuite priest, and all the officials of the Haitian Christian Community in Montreal, can the minister tell this House on what basis he can ascertain that a Haitian will not be considered as a suspect on his arrival in Port-au-Prince?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is the subject matter of a very elaborate, fair and just examination procedure which has been set up under Canadian law and which I might say is almost unprecedented throughout the world in its attention to this kind of situation, which deals with the application of an individual for refugee status on the basis either that he will face persecution on grounds similar to those mentioned in the representation of the hon. member, in which case he has a legitimate claim, or that he will suffer only economic hardship, in which case his claim is not valid.

The United Nations protocol quite clearly distinguishes between persecution on the grounds outlined in the protocol, and suffering economic hardship. The communications I have had from the United Nations high commissioner's representative in Geneva clearly indicates agreement that there has to be some mechanism by which you distinguish between persecution as outlined in the protocol and economic difficulty when a person makes an application.

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

I am sorry to see that the minister does not seem to have understood the full significance of this first question. I will therefore ask a similar one as a supplementary.

In view of the fact that, at the present time, between 850 and 1,500 Haitians are about to get a taste of the government's sense of social justice and humanism, is the minister waiting, before he changes his attitude, for someone to commit suicide in public, as was the case with Turenne Devil on February 14, 1974, in Miami, which induced the American government to stop all deportations to Haiti?

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, where it is established that a person is in danger of persecution under the terms of the protocol, the interdepartmental committee on refugees would so determine and that person would be landed and not deported. If, however, that departmental committee does not so decide, the individual in question may still