

Oral Questions

Canadians also know that there are job gains in industry after industry: the mining industry, the forestry industry, the agricultural sector, the petro-chemical industry, the energy industry. Canadians are gainers, and more jobs are going to be created. We have the proof of that. To cite just one example, we have the announcement by Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd. of Alberta of a \$1.3 billion plant investment near Athabasca, Alberta, leading to the creation of 4,000 jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, we also have an economy which, under the brilliant direction of the Minister of Finance, has already adjusted to the terrific increase in the value of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis foreign currencies.

So, we can adjust to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. We can make whatever adjustments are needed. We have confidence in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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IMMIGRATION**MAHMOUD ISSA MOHAMMAD—REQUEST FOR EARLY REFUGEE BOARD HEARING**

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Immigration.

Yesterday an immigration inquiry concluded that Mahmoud Issa Mohammad deliberately misled Canadian officials on his immigration application, and the adjudicator further concluded, and I quote:

“Had he not claimed to be a refugee, a deportation order would have been made today.”

While I appreciate the adjudicator's decision to honour this individual's refugee claim, I would ask the Minister, given the national interest and the security implications of this case, to ask the refugee board to set this case down for hearing immediately, rather than allowing it to languish at the bottom of a refugee backlog that now numbers approximately 80,000 applications.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Clearly, Mr. Speaker, this is a case

which we in the Government have followed very closely and with considerable interest.

I am neither in a position to make the request asked of me by the Hon. Member, nor would I interfere with what the immigration and refugee authorities will determine in their own processes.

We shall continue to follow this case and we will, to the extent possible, ensure that due process is followed in a way that serves Canadians.

REQUEST FOR FAST-TRACK APPROACH

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, let me clarify the question. No one on this side of the House is asking the Minister to interfere in the process or to diminish the rights of Mr. Mohammad.

My Party, last January, pushed the Government to expedite the immigration inquiry, and what we are asking today is that she expedite the refugee hearing.

Given that the Government's credibility and integrity are at stake in this case, we would request that the Minister recommend that the refugee hearing, a hearing in respect of which Mr. Mohammad will have full rights under the law, be fast-tracked, so that the interests of the system and of Canadians can be served.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, whatever one's personal views of this particular case may be, the interests of Canadians are only served when due process is followed, and the refugee board is in the better position to determine the timing in respect of this case, as with other cases.

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HEALTH**CIGARETTE PACKAGE WARNINGS**

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Cigarette smoking endangers the life of the unborn during pregnancy. It causes lung cancer, heart disease, and chronic obstructive lung disease. As well, it is highly addictive, aggravates virtually all other respiratory illnesses, reduces the life expectancy of smokers, and causes lung disease even among non-smokers.