

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for New Westminster.

ORGANIZED CRIME—HONG KONG POLICEMEN GRANTED
LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It, too, is inspired by that most excellent program of the CBC which this House tends to kick around from time to time. Perhaps we should offer it our congratulations for a job well done.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: It does its job.

Mr. Leggatt: Would the minister advise the House whether the five Hong Kong policemen who attained landed immigrant status in Canada met all the standard criteria under the Immigration Act? Can he also advise us whether any of them are at present sought by the authorities in Hong Kong, and in particular can he advise us whether, with respect to one Nam Cong whom they have been trying to extradite back to Hong Kong, his department has co-operated in the extradition proceeding?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful that we have people from the British House of Commons learning how we conduct ourselves during the question period.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: At least they get answers over there.

Mr. Cullen: I am afraid they will go back and say they had nothing to learn from the opposition parties, at any rate.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Paproski: You bombed out twice. Now try a third time.

Mr. Cullen: It is hard to know which hon. member to reply to.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the question which was put by the hon. member for New Westminster was a very straightforward and direct question.

An hon. Member: Just answer the question.

An hon. Member: Clean up your act.

An hon. Member: Laughing on the outside, crying on the inside.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member did, in fact, have a serious question and I was getting around to it. But I thought

[Mr. Basford.]

it might be more appropriate if he could hear my answer, and I thought that by making that comment I would quieten down hon. members opposite. At the time of admission, none of the former Hong Kong policemen referred to had been convicted of any crime and they were, in fact, legally admitted to Canada. Some people suggest that they might have committed crimes in Canada and on that basis should not have been admitted. That is something we can debate later. The department, however, has been aware for some time of the allegations made against these persons, but so far investigations have not revealed any evidence that would permit action under the Immigration Act. In one particular case I understand that a request for action has been made by the Hong Kong authorities to have an individual returned, and a Federal Court judge dismissed that application and ordered the suspect freed and proceedings dropped. In so far as extradition proceedings are concerned, that would come under the aegis of my colleague, the Solicitor General.

● (1430)

ORGANIZED CRIME—NUMBER OF RCMP OFFICERS ENGAGED IN
INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Solicitor General whether he can advise about extradition proceedings against Nam Cong. In addition, would he advise the House why it is that the RCMP has assigned, according to my information, some 600 individuals to be actively engaged in looking into political subversion in Canada? The RCMP also has another 500 from the Department of National Defence to give them a hand in terms of political subversion in Canada. My information is that there are six full-time RCMP officers in Ottawa whose special responsibility is organized crime. Would the Solicitor General advise whether my information is accurate or otherwise, and would he also advise the House whether he believes this is a fair balance in view of the risk to the country brought about by either political subversion or organized crime?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as far as extradition proceedings are concerned, I have received no requests concerning this matter, which I presume in any event would be addressed first to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

An hon. Member: There's another buck passed.

Mr. Clark: We will soon get around to Goyer.

Mr. Fox: The hon. member also asked a more general question in connection with organized crime. Listening to the opposition during the course of the question period this afternoon, one gets the impression that they discovered organized crime on Monday and Tuesday nights by watching television.

Mr. Fraser: Sunday and Monday night.

Mr. Clark: He's got the days wrong, too.