

## IMMIGRATION

## REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ADMISSION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that the Deputy Speaker of the Quebec National Assembly accompanied a number of Canadian diplomats from Bangkok to a southern Thailand refugee camp and successfully arranged for a group of 30 South Vietnamese refugees to be housed as guests of the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok prior to arranging for minister's permits for all 30 to enter Canada, including the accused embezzler Nguyen Tan Doi, can the minister state that this is normal procedure in view of the fact that these refugees were safe in a country other than their own? Will the minister make a full report to the House on this whole immigration affair before the House recesses for the summer?

**An hon. Member:** And what about Chile?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the aside about Chile, a full report will be made to the House very shortly to correct some of the extraordinary inaccuracies that have been deliberately or inadvertently spread across the country by some people about the difference in treatment between Chilean and Vietnamese refugees.

As to the comment of the hon. member who asked the question, as usual I am interested in all the information, about the Deputy Speaker in Quebec or anybody else who may have taken part in certain activities, I have no confirmation. I will be glad to look into it and report to the House if it seems appropriate to do so.

**Mr. Blackburn:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I have been asking questions of the minister for the past six or seven weeks, and these questions have contained a lot of information. The minister always says he is interested. As he has a whole army of civil servants behind him, I should like to ask why he has not obtained the information himself?

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Fundy-Royal.

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## AIRPORTS

## FREDERICTON—REASON FOR CLOSURE DURING SUMMER MONTHS

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, of which I gave the minister notice this morning. The question is in response to representations made by the people who are sensible enough to want to spend part of this summer in the Maritimes. Would it have been possible to have picked a time more inconvenient for travellers than the last week or two in July to close the Fredericton airport for ten days? Did a task force look at traffic flow patterns and recommend that the closing take place in what is the

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busiest travel period of the year or what is the origin of this awkward plan?

**Mr. Cliff McIsaac (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, there certainly was no plan to undermine the tourist traffic to Fredericton. The contract was awarded to begin work on June 2 and work should be completed at the end of August.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** There goes the summer.

**An hon. Member:** Go to the head of the class.

**Mr. McIsaac:** The main runway will only be unavailable for a three week period from July 7 to July 28.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McIsaac:** The hon. member well knows that cement cannot be poured down there in the wintertime, either!

**Mr. Fairweather:** It can in October and November.

**Mr. Hees:** Summer in New Brunswick only lasts three weeks!

**Mr. McIsaac:** It was timed in order to try to accommodate the peak period. The peak period for traffic down there is August and September.

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## HEALTH

## INCREASE IN TROPICAL DISEASES—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE PEOPLE PROPERLY TESTED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED INTO COUNTRY

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is he aware of the resolution passed by the Canadian Public Health Association which has appointed a committee to find out about the rapid increase in tropical diseases because they feel there must be loopholes which permit this increase to occur? Can the minister tell the House if there are sufficient laboratories and personnel to ensure that there are no loopholes and that people are not allowed into the country who are not properly tested?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the resolution passed by the Canadian Public Health Association. The incidence of tropical disease is increasing, but this would seem to be due in large part to the increase in visitors to Canada, not immigrants but visitors, and in particular Canadian visitors who come back from warmer climates. This is a cause of some concern. As the hon. member knows, we are subjecting the immigrants to very extensive tests, probably the most comprehensive of any country. As far as visitors are concerned, we are discussing new regulations with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration which would allow us to have even stricter rules than there are at the present time without preventing people from travelling in and out of Canada.