

Oral Questions

Mr. Axworthy: Madam Speaker, quite to the contrary. When the family made their appeal to me, along with others, I contacted Mr. Bova, who is a highly respected member of the Italian community, to ask his judgment and his advice and to see whether he would use his services to obtain employment and accommodation for the Calamusas if they were to resettle. He offered to provide those services as part of his contribution in helping that family make a good place in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

METHOD OF DEPORTATION OF MR. CALAMUSA

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is to the same minister and follows the questions raised by my colleague, the hon. member for Cambridge. I want to pursue the method in which the deportation order against Mr. Calamusa was carried out.

Will the minister confirm that Mr. Calamusa and his family were driven over 100 kilometres from Winnipeg to the U.S. border by two Canadian immigration officials in government cars, and will he confirm that the officials took the Calamusas across the border, waited for them and then returned them to Winnipeg, all at the taxpayers' expense?

● (1120)

Can he tell me why he was deported to the United States, and not back to the country from which he originally came illegally? Is all this action standard procedure of the Department of Employment and Immigration?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, this is standard procedure and has been going on for an awfully long time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: It is unfortunate that members opposite have not taken the opportunity to inform themselves of the proper procedure under the Immigration Act. One of the requirements under that act is that when a deportation order is issued, the Canadian authorities are required to carry out that deportation order and to accompany anybody to the point of debarkation, whether it is an airport or a point of entry. That is the proper procedure, and it was followed, Madam Speaker.

Mr. McDermid: As I understand it, Madam Speaker, standard procedure regarding deportation and re-entry through a ministerial permit is to have the person in question pick up that permit at the nearest Canadian consulate, which in this case was Minneapolis, some 500 miles away. Why was standard procedure waived in this particular case?

Mr. Trudeau: Because we have a heart.

Mr. McDermid: And is it just a coincidence that the Calamusas moved from Niagara Falls to Winnipeg for employment, or was the main reason to be close to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and in fact did he

receive this job in Winnipeg before he had his first hearing with the minister, or after?

Mr. Axworthy: Madam Speaker, I would repeat that it is standard procedure to provide this kind of travel to a point of debarkation. The ministerial permit then is simply—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: If members opposite want proper answers they will have to allow me the time and the opportunity to give them. I really cannot hear them over their talking. The proper procedure is to allow those who are given a deportation order to be given a permit that they can then present upon re-entry.

As far as the work here is concerned, I see nothing wrong in someone trying to get away from a climate in which he had received adverse publicity, prompted by both the media and politicians, and start in a new place at a new time. That was the reason they came to Winnipeg, because there were people there who were prepared to help them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REPORT OF OECD ON POLICIES TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS—BUDGET PROVISIONS

Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I will address my question to the Prime Minister. The OECD report released yesterday, in Paris, a survey of the economies of all the western countries, said:

—what is needed is a combination of policies directed at reducing underlying inflation, enhancing productive potential and reducing energy dependence.

Does the Prime Minister agree with that statement, and could he outline for the benefit of the House the government's policies with regard to those objectives?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am sorry, Madam Speaker, I have not read the report. I will be happy to take the advice of the hon. member and read it.

Mr. Rae: It is nice to know that the economic affairs of the country are getting the full attention of the Prime Minister at this time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rae: It is reassuring to all members of the House. This is just amazing: the government is prepared to spend its entire time on constitutional affairs and nothing at all on the economy.

Some hon. Members: Question.