

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brant.

An hon. Member: Talk about headline hunting!

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IMMIGRATION

POSSIBILITY MR. TAN DOI NGUYEN SEEKING ENTRY TO CANADA—SUGGESTION BACKGROUND OF ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES BE CHECKED

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the report that a Mr. Tan Doi Nguyen, a former South Vietnamese banker was in Saigon jail as late as April 14 on charges of fraud and narcotics smuggling and now has reportedly reapplied or is seeking re-entry into Canada, has the minister conducted an investigation into this man's activities or can he assure the House that he will conduct such an investigation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we are looking into all these allegations. When we have a clear picture on any of them that are pertinent we will be glad to give the information to the hon. member.

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. In view of the reports that a Mr. Trang Shi Tan a former chief of the special branch of the Saigon police, among other top Saigon officials, wishes to seek entry into Canada and in view of the fact that a Mr. Cochrane who reportedly worked closely while in Saigon with the chief of covert CIA activities in Viet Nam, a Colonel Lonsdale, is now the United States consul in Montreal, I must ask the minister to consider conducting a thorough and public investigation into the backgrounds of all South Vietnamese who seek entry into Canada and who held sensitive government or business posts in Saigon before the last regime?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, we will take the necessary precautions to protect the national interest. I want to say, however, that the nature of refugee movements is such that we have to operate without the total formalities that we do in ordinarily checking admission to Canada of people who apply for resident status. That is the nature of the movement. We are doing our best to ensure that the national interest is protected but there are risks to be taken in every refugee movement. I know of none that we have been involved in since the Hungarian refugee movement which did not have some cases which gave us difficulty. It is a question of doing our best under these circumstances.

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MANPOWER

UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO COUNTERACT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that the minister's recent

[Mr. Gillespie.]

statement indicated that this year would show one of the highest unemployment figures that we have seen, is he contemplating some imaginative steps to ensure that the vast numbers of people seeking jobs this year will be accommodated and will he be making an announcement in this regard?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated, as have some of my colleagues, that we are conscious of and concerned about the level of unemployment this country faces in light of general international economic problems. We are now looking at the various options open to us.

ALLEGED DISSATISFACTION WITH SERVICES OF MANPOWER CENTRES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): A supplementary question on the same theme, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the minister is aware of two recent surveys of the business community, one in Vancouver and one in Montreal. Some 60 per cent of firms surveyed in Montreal were not satisfied with the services of Manpower centres and some 49 per cent of the firms surveyed in Vancouver were not satisfied.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Question.

Mr. Alexander: I will get to the question, Joe. Is the minister going to look into these surveys and see to it that Manpower services are made to work? It is common knowledge that they are not working in terms of acquiring the jobs and the employees required by employers.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member is just as diligent in bringing forth for hon. members of the House the complimentary comments made about the service.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF FUNDY TIDAL POWER STUDIES

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Can the minister advise the House when the first of the five phase Fundy tidal power studies will commence?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have initiated some inquiries about this. The hon. member asked about it the other day. Unfortunately, I do not have the answers yet but I will get them as soon as I can.