

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****IRAQ—REACTION TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIONS—IMMIGRATION OF IRAQI JEWS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the first question I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs, is this: About eight or nine days ago I asked a question regarding the reaction of the Iraqi government to the protest of the Canadian government, or the representations made by our ambassador in reference to the slaughter of a number of Jewish and other persons in that country. What has been the reaction since that time?

Secondly, is the minister now in a position to advise whether the government is giving sympathetic consideration to the immigration to this country of Iraqi Jews who desire to leave potential oppression and come to Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the message to the government of Iraq was delivered. They have made no reply, but perhaps it is significant that some of the fears that we had about further executions and trials are less now than they were at that time. Perhaps the joint representations made by Canada and many other countries have had an influence upon the government of that country. I am sure we all hope so.

This afternoon the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and I will be meeting with the Canadian Jewish Congress to discuss the question, based on the representations they have made to us, of facilitating the entry of Iraqi Jews to Canada. As I have said before, this is a very complex question, and what we have to be sure of is that the action we take is really beneficial to those unfortunate people.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand what the minister means by the complexity of the situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the right hon. gentleman ask his supplementary question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is my supplementary question. What is the complexity of the situation in regard to Iraqi Jews and other refugees who endeavour to come to Canada?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately when similar pleas were made in the past, sometimes the reaction upon the people whom

[Mr. Speaker.]

the world was trying to help was most unfortunate. There was strong reaction against them in their home countries.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret to have to advise hon. members that we have gone beyond the time allotted for oral questions. Perhaps tomorrow less time will be spent on that day's happenings in Montreal and more on events elsewhere; and the Chair will try to protect minorities and give more time to backbenchers.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I should like now to make the weekly announcement of business. Tomorrow, as previously arranged, we will have the special discussion arising out of the federal-provincial conference. On Monday we will call the orders for third readings of Bill C-154 and Bill C-155 under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Minister of Agriculture. That will be followed with the report stage of Bill C-156, followed by Bill C-157 if the evidence is available from the agriculture committee at that time. Following these we would call the second reading of the estate tax bill, and we propose to continue with that bill at that stage, at the committee stage and the third reading stage for the balance of the week from Tuesday to Thursday. As I indicated, the government reorganization bill will be given first reading on Monday and we propose to go ahead with the second reading debate on that bill when the estate tax bill has been completed next week.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A question to the government house leader, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister ask for consent later this day by leave to move concurrence in the third report of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections to enable those of us who hold dissenting views to have a chance to be heard before the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications leaves on Sunday for its tour of the Atlantic provinces?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the business already has been called for today. I am prepared to move concurrence in the report, if that be necessary, in the near future. I think perhaps we should continue on today's program as arranged.

Mr. McGrath: May I refer this matter to the adjournment debate at ten o'clock?