

Oral Questions

I will give a commitment to look into those individual cases, but I refuse to engage on the floor of the House of Commons to give out justice Reform Party style.

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast): I have a supplemental, Mr. Speaker.

At the present time we are waiting results from consultations and studies. I would like to offer the minister the chance to show Canadians that his bite is as big as his bark.

The hearing for the once deported rapist that my colleague referred to will be held at 8.30 a.m. tomorrow. Will this minister stop this hearing immediately, deport this individual and guarantee Canadians that he will never ever enter Canada again?

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, first, I am not aware of the individual case.

Second, if the hon. member is as concerned about this case as he demonstrates on the floor of the House of Commons, I caution him that that excitement can in fact throw the case out because he and other members could be in contempt of court.

First, why don't you settle down? Maybe you should settle down.

• (1455)

Second, if you do have the case at heart and want to create justice, do not be in contempt of court and do not give that individual any further legal angles.

The Speaker: I am sure all hon. members will want to include the Speaker in their answers and in their questions, absolutely.

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[Translation]

AIR EMBARGO AGAINST HAITI

Mr. Bernard Patry (Pierrefonds—Dollard): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. As a result of the air embargo against Haiti, Canadian nationals are in a hurry to leave the country. However, this morning, we were informed by the media that several Canadians, men and women, could not leave Haiti even if they had valid return tickets because of an airfare increase at Air Canada.

What does the minister intend to do to deal with that situation?

Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I just found out today about the allegations referred to by the hon. member. I want to say that we obviously have no control over airfares charged by airlines. However, I want to tell all the members of this House that we are very concerned by this whole issue, if those allegations are founded.

[English]

Although we do not have any regulatory power on this particular issue, it is with a great degree of sadness that we learned of this kind of situation having developed in Haiti, if in fact the allegations are correct. We will want to inquire. I am sure that the carrier in question will want to explain the facts of the situation and make sure that Canadians understand exactly what did take place.

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[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Osvaldo Nunez (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. For several months now, immigration officers, especially in Montreal and Toronto, have been requiring from refugees whose status has been recognized by the Immigration and Refugee Board a passport from their country of origin. They have been requesting those people to contact their embassy or consulate to apply for a passport in order for them to review their application for permanent resident status.

My question is this. Is the minister aware that the demand imposed by immigration officers upon refugees whose status has been recognized jeopardizes the safety of those people and that of their families in their countries of origin?

[English]

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, documentation is normally required after a refugee is accepted and upon landing. I think it would be easily understood that documentation for a number of individuals is impossible if in fact they are refugees. If they are fleeing from a regime, documentation sometimes is an impossibility, which is taken into account.

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GUN CONTROL

Mr. Jay Hill (Prince George—Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. We have been told that law abiding firearms owners are the primary source of guns used in crime because their firearms can be stolen. Accurate information regarding the sources of guns for criminals is necessary to determine if further firearms controls will reduce gun related crime, yet the statistics are unavailable.

Will the minister undertake a comprehensive national study to determine the source of firearms for criminal activities and will he make the information readily available to all Canadians?

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, we do not have accurate statistics on the availability of firearms for illegal purposes. As the hon. member has said there are those who say that most of the firearms that get into the