

A Date with McLean

On Thursday, May 29, the Honourable Walter McLean, Minister of State (Immigration) will represent the Government of Canada as keynote speaker during the Symposium *Refugee or Asylum: A Choice for Canada?* His topic will be the refugee claims process in Canada. As Minister of State for Immigration, Mr. McLean has responsibility for policy formulation and operations. Refugee determination has been a particular concern in recent months.

CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES

REFUGE

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About the Main Estimates 1986-87 The Government's Expenditure Plan

Dan Heap, M.P., Spadina
(edited version)

The Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration will be discussing the 1986-87 Budget at a meeting in May 1986. The total budget for the Employment and Immigration Department will be \$4,729 million; \$130 million will be allocated to the Immigration Programme. The amount represents a decrease of 5.4% over the 1985-86 budget forecast of \$138,001 million.

The government intends to reduce the Adjustment Assistance Programme which provides living expenses to indigent refugees and their dependants. The Programme will receive \$29.7 million, a decrease of \$7.6 million (25.6%) over 1985.

The Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Programme's budget will remain unchanged at \$3.64 million. Funding for the Government's Host Programme for Refugee Resettlement, which is still a pilot project,

will remain at \$500,000. The budget for the Refugee Status Advisory Committee will also be reduced from \$1.745 million for 1985-86 to \$1.6 million for 1986-87.

The Immigration Appeal Board will receive \$4.667 million, an increase of 6.4% over 1985-86. Because of increased personnel costs, the government is saying the IAB needs a bigger budget, particularly as the Board will have to deal now with re-determination of refugee claims.

I feel that the over-all decrease in the Immigration Programme's budget shows a rejection of Canada's commitment to the refugee movement and the plight of those refugee claimants now living in Canada. It also seems that the government is bent on implementing the recommendations of the Neilson Task Force Report to admit only those refugees capable of being supported by private sponsors.

About the Fifth and Sixth Report

Dan Heap, M.P., Spadina
(edited version)

Last Friday, April 18, 1986, the Minister of State for Immigration, the Honourable Walter McLean, should have tabled the Government's Response to the Standing Committee on Employment & Immigration's Reports on Refugee Determination in Canada and the Backlog.

Instead of doing so, the Minister gave a letter to the Clerk of the House of Commons which said that the Government needed more time to consider various alternatives before making a final decision on the reports. This is the second time the Minister has breached Standing Order 99 (2) which states that "a comprehensive report" must be submitted to Parliament within 120 days.

I have asked Mr. Bosley, the Speaker of the House, to review Mr. McLean's breach of parliamentary procedure through the Committee on Elections, Privileges and

Procedure and am now awaiting a response from the Speaker.

I fear that the Government may be deliberately creating delay again, and then just prior to Parliament's summer recess submit a legislative package; if the opposition immigration critics do not immediately agree, we will then be accused of preventing the government from helping refugee claimants.

For example, if the Government proposes a determination system with a completely unsatisfactory appeal, we would wish, with many members of the public, to support an amendment. However a debate would eat up time, and the Government would argue that we must hurry up before Parliament rises at the end of June.

It is important that refugee claimants and their supporters are aware of what is happening.

