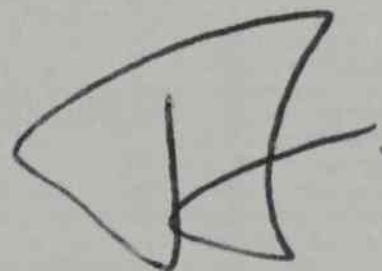


*Immigration*

PRIME MINISTER

IMMIGRATION RULES

Mr. Raison appeared before the Race Relations Sub-Committee of the Home Affairs Select Committee today and was given a reasonably comfortable time. Alex Lyon took up most of the session with a lengthy and extremely obscure line of questioning about the impact on numbers of the rules; he seemed to be arguing that the change in the rules would produce an increase of only about 500. Mr. Raison said that the upper limit was 3,000 and the most likely number was about 2,000; Mr. Lyon's figures were the product of wishful thinking rather than statistical analysis. Alf Dubs asked about the European Commission and received short shrift. He then asked if girls seeking to bring in their husbands or fiances could be given priority in the citizenship queue; Mr. Raison said no. John Hunt contented himself with saying that the leaks of the rules were extraordinarily unhelpful and merely produced mis-informed comment. The session was chiefly remarkable for being attended by large numbers of backbench potential critics of the changes.



25 October 1982