

Adjournment Debate

Regarding that part of the question which concerns visas and recognition of the Guyanese who are in this country, I will let the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Dubois) provide the answer, since I think it more directly concerns his Department.

Mr. Speaker, I may point out to my hon. friend that a substantial reduction in the development aid being offered to Guyana would penalize the entire population of one of the poorest countries in the region. It would be contrary to our policy, which is to assist poor countries, irrespective of whether we feel they are being properly governed or not. Guyana does not have a good reputation in Canada, Mr. Speaker, especially as a result of allegations of electoral fraud. My hon. friend referred to racial violence, and there is also some talk of harassment of groups or individuals opposed to the regime,

restrictions on freedom of the press, police brutality and the rest. However, even if this country's human rights record is not exactly spotless, I still feel the situation is not as serious as it is often described. For instance, there are no political prisoners in Guyana, the rule of *habeas corpus* is observed, a fair trial is the norm, and unions have the right to organize, to negotiate and to call strikes. Furthermore, withdrawing aid from Guyana would bring about a breakdown of a vital part of our policy towards Caribbean Commonwealth countries, and would have serious consequences for its integrity.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 6.27 p.m., the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.