

*Oral Questions*

has is a third class burial. I would like to ask the Minister—I am not sure which Minister, since the Minister of Justice is not in the House—when the Government will order these backbenchers who are opposed to this enlightened and progressive legislation to stop the filibuster they have been conducting during the past month in committee.

[English]

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Hon. Member that the Bill passed the House at second reading with unanimous consent, after considerable filibustering by the Opposition. The committee is engaged in hearing witnesses and it is our understanding that there is another week or so for witnesses to appear. The Government is committed to pursuing this legislation but, at the same time, I would tell my hon. friend that we are not going to be pushing around our members on the committee. We want to allow for full hearing of witnesses and full development of the clause-by-clause stage.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Member for Charlevoix said yesterday that the only thing he knows for sure about the plans of the Government regarding official languages is that they are going around in circles in the caucus.

**Mr. Grisé:** You better take care of your own caucus.

## APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, what specific measures does the Government intend to take to make sure this Bill is approved by the House before the end of June? What can the Minister tell the House about the future plans of the Government?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Mr. Speaker, if the Government were to order committee members to take certain actions, my hon. friend would be the first one up on his feet complaining about it. I say to him as a member of the committee: Do the committee's work in committee, not on the floor of the House.

\* \* \*

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## NICARAGUA—REPATRIATION OF CITIZENS LIVING IN HONDURAS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. A fact finding mission for peace team just returned from a tour of Honduras and Nicaragua. Among other things it recommended that Canada assist with a reconciliation fund to provide economic incentives for the repatriation of thousands of Nicaraguans presently living along the Nicaraguan-Honduras border, rather than prematurely providing for the possibility of resettlement in Canada.

Is Canada prepared to assist with a resettlement and reconciliation fund to help those people reintegrate themselves into the life of Nicaragua, as part of our contribution to the peace process?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have not yet had an opportunity to see or study that report. I will certainly look at it.

The Hon. Member will know that a parliamentary committee will be visiting the region this month as a result of unanimous party agreement here that Canada should be looking at every constructive way open to it to encourage peace in the region. He will also know that the Foreign Ministers of the five Central American countries have agreed to submit a request to the Secretary General of the UN to establish auspices under which designated countries, including Canada, might be able to play a specific role in aiding the peace process in that region. We are prepared to respond to that kind of invitation if it comes and naturally if it takes account, as we think it will, of legitimate Canadian security requirements.

## REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister prepared to respond to another recommendation of the committee that, in light of the instability of the human rights situation in Honduras, increased militarization, and the fragility of civilian democracy in that country, we are prepared to review the level and nature of our development assistance program in Honduras, which gets more of such assistance than any other country in Central America and which is making poorer use of it?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the question of the effectiveness of the use of development assistance is almost always subjective. I will look at the recommendations to which the Hon. Member refers. He will know the income situation in Honduras, in a region where poverty is endemic and extensive, is particularly acute. That is one of the factors taken into account in our development assistance program.

I repeat, the general attitude of this Government is that it is interested in being helpful in any way it can and we are looking at options which might be open to us, in this particular case by way of an all-Party committee visiting the region.

\* \* \*

## HORTICULTURE

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Over a year ago he promised the Canadian Horticultural Council and fruit and vegetable producers that he would bring in amendments to the