

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

I congratulate the hon. member once again on the minister's behalf as well as on my own for having raised that matter of which all Canadians are quite proud.

I myself saw the arrival of some Czech refugees and I could see how happy they were to enter this country.

Canada can be proud of what she has done, for no other country in the world has accomplished as much as Canada for Biafran or Czech refugees.

During the Prague uprising on last August 23, the Canadian government, as early as September 4, ordered its European offices to process quickly all applications made by Czechoslovakian refugees. At the same time, we relaxed somewhat the ordinary conditions to allow them to enter Canada.

We must also remember that when the advisory commission which spent a few days in Vienna to see whether officials were taking proper and quick action came back to Canada, it could only praise all the Canadian officials in our offices abroad who hurry the answers to the applications which they receive from Czechoslovakians who want to come to Canada.

In order to add to what the hon. member said a few moments ago, regarding the attitude of the government towards refugees, I must mention that, from the 1st to the 23rd of November, ten groups of refugees will arrive in the country. This proves, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian government has done what no other government in the world has done.

As far as the Biafrans are concerned, we are trying to do our utmost for them, but we must admit that the present conditions in Nigeria do not allow us to act as promptly and as easily. However, the Canadian government has publicly declared that any Biafran citizen, presently visiting the country, who asks for permission to stay, will have his request granted.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Pursuant to provisional standing order 39A the motion to adjourn the house is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly this house stands adjourned until eleven o'clock tomorrow morning.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.13 p.m.