

S. O. 31

I must remind my friend there are other places. You do not have to come to Canada and put your foot on the soil to apply for refugee status. We have been very generous in the past and we are going to continue to be generous in the future. We are not going to turn away genuine refugees who are seeking asylum in this country. We are not going to do that. We are not a people who will do that.

What we are trying to stop and what we are going to stop are the bogus claims that are made. The member is very well aware of the bogus claims that are made right across this country by people who claim refugee status. They are economic refugees but they are not refugees under the definition of the United Nations.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, I have a small comment and a question. This is a huge bill, about 100 pages long. I wonder whether the parliamentary secretary could indicate to this House whether it would deal with the problem of consultants and con artists who exploit the immigrants or the refugees and whether it would deal as well with conflict of interest.

For instance, in Calgary we had an immigration manager who left a couple of months ago and six weeks later he was already advertising that he was a consultant and he was manager of Calgary's immigration.

Could the parliamentary secretary answer the question?

Mr. Shields: I am not sure that I understand the question, as it was rather garbled.

All I would say is the bill itself is a complex one and all of the issues that he has brought forward are being dealt with in the bill itself and are going to be discussed in committee very thoroughly. We want to get it into committee because of the very detailed work that has to be done over the summer. All of those questions will be answered at that time clearly.

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to address the House on the subject of immigration. I am certain

that other members will agree with me when I say it is the single most frequently raised issue in many constituencies.

• (1400)

Over the past four years I have heard horrible stories of an immigration system that lacks compassion, understanding and sensitivity to the needs of both Canadian citizens and those who aspire to obtain it.

It is with great disappointment that I read the proposed changes to Canada's immigration law because it is crystal clear to all of us on this side of the House that the government is abandoning any compassion our immigration process may have had.

Mr. Speaker: I regret I must interrupt the hon. member. It being two o'clock the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[Translation]

PROGRAMS ON CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

Mr. Marcel Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation decision to help Canadians learn more about their parliamentary system by producing a series of television programs on the subject.

I think it is very important for the public to understand the inner workings of Parliament if they are to understand and appreciate our democratic system, often referred to as an example in other countries. I urge educational institutions to make these programs available, which will show how important it is to have a decision-making centre where everyone is free to express the views of the population he or she represents.