

Privilege

Considering her Government's delay in imposing a visa requirement on Turkey for months after it knew of the racketeers and false promises which brought many Turks here without proper status, will she consider a two-month delay in further deportations of people in the backlog in order to allow time for consultations, both to put Bill C-55 into working order for control of refugee status determination, and to work out a consistent and fair method of handling the 48,000 in the backlog?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his good wishes.

I should say that the normal process followed with a friendly country was followed with the Turkish refugee claimants, that is, there was a period of discussion with the Turkish Government and the visa requirements were put in as soon as practical.

I have examined that part of the issue very carefully and some of the delays in the process were of course because the refugee claimants wanted to take advantage of our appeal process, which they have every right to do. However, it is too lengthy, and I agree with the Hon. Member that Bill C-55 will help us to deal with these things more expeditiously. Of course, after that time we will have to look at the 48,000 in the backlog and I will thank him for his support in promoting Bill C-55.

BILL C-55—REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, considering the fact that all non-governmental spokespeople in Canada, church, labour and Bar associations, as well as others, have condemned Bill C-55 because it violates the Supreme Court decision three years ago on oral hearings, will the Minister consider the delay I suggested in order to negotiate with the Canadian Bar association and the Senate for amendments to Bill C-55 that would make it workable and capable of being passed without challenges immediately at the Supreme Court?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, first I wish my hon. friend were in a position to help me in the Senate. I could use it.

Let me just say that we regard Bill C-55 and Bill C-84 as parts of a complete package dealing with this issue. It is the two taken together that will help us deal with this problem.

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PRIVILEGE

DESIGNATION OF MEMBER BY NAME

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the distinguished Deputy Prime Minister, who is after all a former House Leader, would want to take the opportunity

to correct his mistake in Question Period when he referred to me by name. He must know that I am the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway. In spite of all the Government's efforts to get me out of that riding I am still the Member.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, it certainly was not my intention to aid in that unfortunate process going on in Vancouver. I was merely quoting an extract from a statement the Hon. Member made. I apologize to him. Who would not know that the Hon. Member is the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway? I apologize for that.

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[Translation]

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29

NATIONAL UNITY—RIGHTS OF LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave to move a motion that the House do now adjourn and, as I did yesterday, I would like to make a few points in support of that proposal. If the motion is deemed in order, I would be ready to debate it tonight, as provided for in the Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of reasons why I once more ask for that emergency debate on the language situation in Saskatchewan. First, there is no need in my view to remind you of the situation as such, because everyone knows it raises constitutional questions, especially as to the interpretation of the Meech Lake Accord.

Moreover, we should keep in mind that the Supreme Court recognized that the rights of French speaking Canadians in Saskatchewan had been violated since 1905. This is not a trivial matter, it is a serious injustice that must be addressed without delay.

Since Bill 2 tabled in the Saskatchewan Legislature also flies in the face of the spirit of national conciliation that prevailed in the Meech Lake Accord, and since Bill 2 in no case can redress the harm and injustice done to Francophones in that province, I believe those facts alone warrant an emergency debate because it is this Federal Government's direct responsibility to ensure that minority rights are respected.

Mr. Speaker, there are other reasons why the debate must take place as soon as possible. The Prime Minister stated in this House that he and his ministers had discussions with Premier Devine over the weekend. Unfortunately, the media this morning reported those negotiations had failed since Premier Devine stated nothing could convince him to amend Bill 2 in any way. This points to the total failure of the Prime Minister's persuasion effort.