

*Government Orders*

a deportation notice and the children were allowed to stay.

This case is just one example of many that happen like this week in and week out. We know how tough it is when parents of young students in high school come into our constituency offices. They could be weeks away from getting their grades. The teacher is saying that they are good students. They are established in the community and their parents have received deportation notices. It is just a mess, the way families can be torn apart.

We have tried on Friday and today to be very constructive in this debate with the government. We have pointed out certain aspects of this bill that we support. However, I come back again to the fact that the best plan can go off the rails if there is not the proper staff to support the implementation of the plan.

The member talked about the right to decide who stays and who goes being put into the hands of officials. This can be a very dangerous transformation of powers. In a situation where public servants are stressed out because they are overworked and because of the volume of immigration cases coming at them, it is absolutely impossible to have all of them keep their cool all the time. Quite often rash decisions are being made.

Does the member think that one of the real problems in this legislation is that the Government of Canada is not giving the Public Service of Canada enough person-years to make sure that its best intentions in implementing this plan go forward properly? I happen to think that without the proper person-years this is going to be fiasco.

• (1540)

**Mrs. Maheu:** Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood. He has touched on one element that is very important. When this commission was first founded a lot of money was put into it in the hope and with the assurance that it could complete the job. It has been a long time and it still has a backlog of a couple of a hundred thousand people. No wonder its people are tired.

The government's preoccupation is to get rid of our debt only at the cost of anything else. It does not matter to the government. It wants to try to lower the deficit, which none of us can complain an awful lot about, but it

should not at the cost of human lives and human dignity, which is what is happening here.

It is easy to say that our public servants are tired and overworked with some of the cases I have read about. The Prime Minister of this country stood in the House and said that he personally would look at the case. Then his own government decided to appeal in the case of the kids. They had credible basis accorded to them in one hearing. The parents know about Afghanistan. Another problem is that there are people sitting on this commission who do not know what is going on in the Third World countries.

Our own Prime Minister stood up. The minute the talk is about children, he loves to get to his feet, but when he has to do something he does not do it.

**Mr. Lewis:** Cheap shot.

**Mrs. Maheu:** It may not be a cheap shot. The minister should take a look at the dossier.

**Mr. Lewis:** Cheap shot artist.

**Mrs. Maheu:** I have many other cases. Another case from Afghanistan is being given the same response.

**Mr. Lewis:** Cheap shot.

**Mrs. Maheu:** The minister keeps repeating "cheap shot". When five kids are at stake, I am glad I am in a position to give a cheap shot because none on that side of the House would. You are talking about a baby here, Mr. Minister. I am sorry, Madam Speaker. I say through you to the minister that we are talking about children. You know very well how I must feel, Madam Speaker, because we are both mothers.

I have a second case which is the same. People were tortured and left the country, and a couple of members who do not know anything about Afghanistan say: "We do not believe him. We do not believe he was tortured. The marks are not enough". Sometimes electric shocks do not leave enough marks. He does have other marks.

What I question is how this government has so many hard-hearted people on this commission. If the minister has ever granted for humanitarian reasons to let someone stay in this country, I wish he would share it with this House because in my riding there have been several cases that could have had and should have had the minister's intervention. I would like to know where he did get involved for humanitarian reasons.