

Committee Reports

There is another irony associated with the refugee policy of the Government which the Minister fails to acknowledge in his report. That is the role of the much attacked administrative review of the people who applied for refugee status. These people were examined for possible landing on non-refugee grounds by a decision a year and a half ago. They have been attacked by Ministers and by Members of the government Party as queue-jumpers. The fact is that without 6,500 of those people who were landed in 1986 from the administrative review, the Government would have fallen not 5,000 or more short of its 1986 planning level but about 11,000 short. So the Government's pride in almost reaching its level in 1986 is based in part on these people that it despises and calls queue-jumpers. In 1987, nearly 14,000 have already landed from the administrative review. Without that it is very doubtful that the Government would come close to this year's planned level of landings.

In the Government's allocation of the 1,000 increase planned for refugees selected overseas, the Government fails to take account of the situation that is mushrooming in Central America. With the increase of the death squad killings condoned by the Governments of Guatemala and El Salvador, which have yet to prosecute anyone for those killings except when they went so far as to kill American churchwomen in El Salvador, with that rise in the level of fascist-type terror in El Salvador and Guatemala, there needs to be a substantial increase in the planned levels for Central American refugees in Canada. There needs to be an increase at least in line with the 1986 totals from Latin America which were 4,735. Instead, the Government has provided only an increase from 3,200 to 3,400 for all of Latin America.

As well as ignoring what is happening in Central America, the Government is ignoring what is happening with one of our trading partners, Chile, a country to which this country has from time to time shipped war goods. The Government now, through its so-called access to information law, prevents people from finding out what is being shipped there in the way of war goods. Chile has intensified the repression even beyond anything that has existed in the last dozen years in that country. That is not recognized or taken into account by the Government's proposed planning for refugee acceptance.

I do recognize, and I strongly support, that the Government has doubled the Middle East and West Asia planned level. It has brought it up from 900 to 1,800. I hope that this will include a substantial increase of several hundred for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, India or other nearby countries. The designation of West Asia-Middle East is a very broad designation covering an area that has many millions of refugees from several different sources of conflict. But the record of Canada in failing to consider Afghan refugees is another disgraceful record. I hope the Government is on the way to remedying that.

Therefore, I thank the Minister for his report, particularly in the matter of enlarging the concept of family reunification. I hope he will take the administrative measures and provide the

resources to carry out the plans he has announced. I strongly urge the Government to reconsider the administrative changes and even legislative and policy statement changes which do not reflect the reality of Canada's obligation to refugees and to the people in humanitarian need that come to Canada or desire to come to Canada. These are people who would have a good case for coming to Canada, if the Minister would listen to them.

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[Translation]

STRIKING COMMITTEE

PRESENTATION OF THIRTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, the Thirty-seventh Report of the Striking Committee.

Mr. Speaker, if the House gives its consent, I intend to move concurrence in this report later this day.

[Editor's note: For above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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● (1300)

[English]

JUDGES ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-88, an Act to amend the Judges Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall the Hon. Minister have leave to introduce the said Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[Translation]

STRIKING COMMITTEE

CONCURRENCE IN THIRTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, if the House gives its consent, I move, seconded by Mrs. Vézina, that the