

Mr. Speaker, I must once again correct an impression that my colleague is trying to give. The number of employees who are now in Montreal is about 8,500, exactly the same as it was in 1982 when you were in power.

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[English]

IMMIGRATION

SELECTION OF NICARAGUAN AND GUATEMALAN REFUGEES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In 1987, according to the Department's records, Canadian consulates in the United States, in New York, Atlanta, San Francisco, and so on, selected 168 Nicaraguans who were living in the United States to be resettled in Canada as refugees, but in the same year only 71 Guatemalans who were living in the United States were to be resettled in Canada.

Given the well known fact the opponents of the Nicaraguan Government are not subject to the death squad reign of terror that exists in Guatemala, why accept more than twice as many Nicaraguans from the United States for resettlement in Canada?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member well knows that we deal with all of these cases on a case by case basis, and with some considerable sensitivity. The people who are in the field of selecting immigrants do so on the basis of sensitive judgments about the position that a particular person is in. We have brought in a considerable number of Guatemalans one way and another.

We also notice, and I have received this information from some of my human rights advisers, that the regime in Guatemala is less volatile than it used to be. We are watching this situation very carefully. We regard refugees as individuals, and look at them one at a time.

STANDARD USED IN SELECTING REFUGEES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the fact that the situation in Guatemala is less volatile than it was three years ago does not mean that the death squads still do not terrorize people with murders and kidnappings in Guatemala. If the Minister is talking with human rights specialists she should know that.

Is there not a double standard used in which Nicaraguans are more easily accepted from the United States, in spite of the fact that Nicaraguans as a majority of the applicants can be accepted as refugees in the United States, whereas scarcely any Guatemalans are accepted as refugees in the United States?

Oral Questions

Does that not suggest that a different standard is used for selecting Nicaraguans than that used for selecting Guatemalans when the standard ought to be essentially the refugee standard—is this person in danger of persecution if he goes back to his country?

● (1450)

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I thought that is what I just said. We do look at these as individual cases and we do consider them on an individual basis. If they are in danger, then we ensure they do not get sent back. That is exactly what I replied to the first question.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

EVALUATION OF USED AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Will he give favourable consideration to amending or rescinding any and all interpretation bulletins or other documents issued or used by the Department of National Revenue which permit employees of that Department in effect to change or alter the list price of manufacturers and/or the invoices of farmers when a used machine is traded in on a new machine?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this question from the Hon. Member who has been particularly conscientious in focusing on this matter which is, of course, of great importance to western farmers, indeed all farmers. I want to assure him that my Department is always anxious to administer this program in an equitable manner.

I will take his question as a representation and remind him that we cancelled the special audit over a year ago and are endeavouring to find ways to give special attention to farmers who feel that the question of over-evaluation or otherwise of used equipment has not been dealt with properly. We are sensitive to this and will continue to monitor it.

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[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

BILL C-72—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate some details about what this Government intends to do with Bill C-72. Some of us think the Government is hiding behind Members of its Caucus referred to as dinosaurs, which the Government has ordered to do its "dirty work". According to some Members, the only future this Bill