

Immigration Act, 1976

several years have been consulting with their officials for this purpose, leading the way in devising ideas for locking out refugee claimants. Most of the refugee claimants nowadays come not from eastern Europe, as they used to, but from the Third World, from the non-white peoples. This law, whatever is the good intention of the Minister, if it goes into action, will be a racist law because it will turn away the huge majority of refugee claimants who in fact are non-white people coming from former colonial countries. This is because there has been a shift of labour policy. Our countries for some decades welcomed cheap labour from the Third World countries, people who could be brought into work at minimum wage or a little less, at least for a few years. We welcomed them in the United States, Canada and western Europe. The multinationals and the banks would now rather have the manufacturing done in those Third World countries. Not only manufacturing but data processing is more and more being done in the Third World countries where the wages are perhaps one-tenth of the wages in Canada.

The wages are held down by the actions of terrorist Governments such as the Governments of South Korea, El Salvador and Chile, where the death squads rule untouched and unrestrained by the government of the day, unrestrained by the dictator in Chile or by the so-called President in El Salvador who shows he has no power over them. By killing off the trade union leaders in those countries, they are able to keep the wages down.

When I was in El Salvador in the first week of May, I had an interesting meeting with the Vice Minister of Planning. I asked him what he was going to do about 70 per cent unemployment in his country. He replied: "I want you Canadians to invest in our cheap labour". It was not a translation. He spoke very good English. He said: "We want you to invest in our cheap labour. Send your wood and cloth down here and we will make furniture and clothes and sell it to the United States. We will get the wages and you get the profits". Those were his words. In other words, this law, Bill C-55, is part of an arrangement adopted by the First World countries to shut Third World people out from our countries. We no longer want them as cheap labour here. We want them as cheaper labour in their home countries where they will be policed by terrorist squads, death squads, aimed particularly at leaders of trade unions and co-operatives who are trying to raise the living standards of their members above starvation level.

• (1740)

It is an evil law. Whatever is the stated intention of the Minister, this law is an evil law. It is evil in two ways. I am now speaking about what the words of the law state and not what the Minister said in his statement since I cannot vote for the stuff that he says. I have to vote yes or no to Bill C-55 and the words that are written in it. What is written in it will harm refugees. Whether or not it will keep the abusers out, I do not know. But I know that it will harm refugees by shutting them out.

Second, this law is an evil law because it purports, and particularly with the interpretations circulated at the taxpayers' expense and carefully drafted to misrepresent the law, to be something that it is not. It purports to be helping refugees when in fact it lays the foundation for shutting them out.

Even if this law goes through second reading, through committee, report stage and third reading and is proclaimed law it will not work. We know that there will be resistance of all kinds, legal and illegal resistance, by Canadian people who will not stand the injustice that this law would present. This law will be not only unjust but it will be unworkable. This was a warning given to the previous Government when the present Immigration Act was being considered. It was warned that it would be unworkable. Those who made the warning were laughed at. At that time they said that there should be an oral hearing for every claimant. The Government said that that would be too expensive. Well, after millions if not billions of dollars of expense the Supreme Court has said: "Give them an oral hearing". This law does not do that. This law would deny what the Supreme Court meant by an oral hearing to the majority of people who come to our ports. Just having them heard on a narrow point by one member of a board is not the oral hearing that the Supreme Court spoke about. Because of that fundamental injustice, Canadian people will have to block this law.

It would be much better if the Minister would withdraw it now and enter into consultation with all those concerned in order to bring us a much truer law that would actually help refugees through a system that would be quick, which is what the committee and what the churches proposed. It would take about three months to determine the cases and there would be no more attraction for these rip-off artists, such as the ones that the Minister has been so slow to prosecute in the case of the Portuguese and now in the case of the Brazilians. The only remedy for this law is to withdraw it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On debate, the Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes).

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Is there not time allotted for questions and comments?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, there is not. That provision does not apply to the first three speakers. The Hon. Member for Calgary West.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I say to the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly) that mine is the first speech that will be open for questions and comments and I would welcome some at a later stage.

I have served for many hours on the committee with the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap). On many things over all those many meetings and many months we have come to a common understanding and a common sense of agreement. That comes out of a deeply felt commitment to the refugees in the world. That is where we have our area of agreement.