

*Government Orders*

said earlier we think this should include grandparents and they should not be in a much lower category.

There is the safe third country rule. Refugee claimants who enter Canada through another country such as the U.S. may be removed for a refugee hearing there. We know many refugees from Latin and Central America in particular will be deported by the United States, yet the minister is going to encourage that by refusing them at the border.

Federal Court appeals will only be allowed on points of law and not on merits. This is too narrow a basis for appeal and many experts have said this.

There will be legislated changes to allow speedier removal of rejected refugee claimants, even though an appeal is pending and before appeals are processed. Immigration officials will have authority to search arrivals they may suspect of carrying forged or illegal documents

• (1620)

On the denial of the right to work, refugee claimants will not be allowed to work until they are accepted. This is another regressive move because people need to work and learn English or French to keep their self-respect while they are waiting and it helps them to adjust in Canada afterwards.

Detention will be reviewed after at least 30 days instead of every seven days. My colleagues were just speaking on that.

Finally, there will be better provisions for disciplining IRB commissioners. I hope this approves better appointments of refugee appeal board persons as well so that they will be based on qualifications rather than on political background.

We agree with some of the changes. We agree with the elimination of the credible basis and we want the processing to be speeded up. Long delays in the past of one to three years have not helped claimants who are left in limbo, many of them living in poverty and desperately hoping to stay in Canada while their children become Canadianized and then have been sent back. To be deported after two or three years is inhuman and yet we are told that in B.C. 77 per cent of refugee claimants have been refused during the first three months of 1992.

I have appealed many cases as have others in this House, particularly where children are involved. I have carefully documented children at risk. It very definitely contravenes and aggregates our commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. I am thinking of a number of Polish families in particular. The minister refused every one of them.

In not one case that I have referred has this minister made a positive response to appeal for humanitarian, compassionate consideration to families that are refugee claimants and could be given consideration to remain in Canada. I doubt, as I said earlier, that he even looks at these personally. If he does, he must have a very cold heart.

We want the processing of refugee claimants to be dealt with more quickly but we also want a more sincere and compassionate appeal process to allow for humanitarian considerations. We want refugee claimants to be allowed to work and to learn French or English and to save the costs of welfare while they are waiting for their cases to be heard.

We also approve the proposed measures to process families more expeditiously. Hopefully this will be under six months. The long delays in reuniting married couples and bringing in family members have caused undue hardship for many immigrants. I would like to say that it has been particularly long for people who have applied from Asian countries whom we are very familiar with in B.C.

I asked the minister to give special attention to the very long delays in India, China, the Pacific islands and Africa where immigration offices are very distant and it is very difficult for families and very costly.

We do not agree, however, with the government's concept of family and the restrictions which give priority to the nuclear family but deny entry to extended families, the basic family unit in many Asian and other countries.

New Democrats have pressed this government for years to include single adults as part of the primary family group. The former minister, I am glad to say, did approve this policy but then it was rescinded by the present one. Now we see in this bill that the nuclear family will have priority in the first stream while grand-