

*Adjournment Debate*

moving and force the government into action, when we know how repressive is the regime they have in Haiti.

The Minister who still claims that he has no evidence that the deportees will be ill-treated once they are back in their country, cannot ignore the fact that the regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier indulges in the most dreadful whims in order to stay in power. The Minister cannot ignore completely the reports, available at any time, of those people, Canadians or Haitians, who lived there as missionaries or in other qualities, and who say they fear the worst for the repatriated.

I wish that the Minister could and would at least answer the following question:

Does he not think that the Haitians asking for political asylum in Canada have, by doing so, disapproved the Duvalier dictatorship and therefore can he not imagine the sad lot awaiting these Haitians as soon as they are back in their native country?

I ask the responsible minister the question of a Canadian reporter, and I quote:

Mr. Minister, what does a Haitian forced to come back to his country after having been refused the statute of political refugee abroad look like at the Port-au-Prince airport in front of Duvalier protean militia?

The department tells us that only 28 Haitian immigrants formally applied for the status of political refugee in Canada. This is a legalistic approach of the matter. Don't we realize that many Haitians living in Canada, afraid anyway to be deported, do not dare to apply formally for such a status?

For goodness' sake why does the minister not set aside his legalistic attitude in this matter and avail himself, which would be every bit as legal, of that other provision of the act which gives the Immigration Appeal Board the discretionary power to make special concessions in the case of applicants when compassionate or humanitarian considerations warrant it.

If, to convince himself of the existence, if fact, of humanitarian considerations, the minister is not satisfied with the contents of the letters of Father Paul Dejean, head of the Montreal Haitian Christian Community office, if, as I say, the minister doubts the word of those innumerable persons or organizations who have written to him recently, he should at least discuss the whole subject with his former employees who worked over there or, to be more specific, with Mr. Mackenzie Wood, who was recently recalled home after having acted in Haiti as Canadian chargé d'affaires.

One way or the other the minister will surely be convinced that my concern is highly humanitarian in the case I am pleading here. The minister may hesitate to intervene, for fear of jeopardizing the success of the Canadian mission headed by Mrs. Michèle Mant, now in Haiti since November 2nd last and due to return here on November 17th. That mission expects to reap the fruits of the recent visit to Haiti of the president of CIDA, Mr. Gérin-Lajoie, and of our 4 million-dollar aid program.

If such is the case, and I have every reason to believe it is, why did the minister not use his influence with his colleague from External Affairs to delay the departure of that mission?

[Mr. Wagner.]

In any event, I ask the minister, in view of the probable success of that mission, and especially of the fact that Canadians in general, and more particularly the press, have only started a week ago to be interested in this record, to grant another extension in this matter. I appeal to him to change his decision. It is a matter concerning the social justice and humanism of this government, the Parliament, and all our country.

In closing my remarks, I would like to ask the whole cabinet, starting with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), to meditate this sentence of the president of CIDA, taken from the brochure "Man First" of this agency, and which reads as follows:

"An effective co-operation in the development of third world nations would give priority to the status of man in society and would center his activities on the will to meet human needs and aspirations adequately... because, finally, the value of assistance or co-operation must be measured in terms of the degree of happiness of the men who live in a society."

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I think all members of this House and most Canadians would have great sympathy for the plight of any people, and particularly of the Haitians to whom the hon. member has been referring. I want to reiterate, however, that any one in Canada, from Haiti or anywhere else in the world, who feels that he has grounds for fear of prosecution or persecution on returning to his own country need not feel that he is without recourse to the law. Any such person would have immediate access, by the declaration that he or she considers himself or herself to be a refugee, to an administrative and legal process which, as already stated, comprises a review of the situation he is claiming, by a refugee committee and, if necessary, an appeal to the Immigration Appeal Board.

No well-founded claim of refugee status will be ignored. By the same token, Madam Speaker, we simply cannot make a mass declaration. Indeed, not all Haitians in Montreal who came to Canada and are now in Canada illegally are in fact making claim to refugee status, and not all those who make claims, in the cases I have personally examined, are entitled to that status. Those who are entitled are being granted refugee status.

The bulk of the cases to which the hon. member referred are before the Immigration Appeal Board. That body has separate and autonomous jurisdiction to deal with those matters based on refugee status as defined under the protocol of the United Nations which I described earlier. Beyond that the board has authority in most cases for those people who came prior to August, 1973, to deal with the matter of deportation on humanitarian grounds over and above refugee status. The process of law is taking place; it is compassionate, and it provides for compassionate decisions.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY—MARITIME PROVINCES—  
ALLEGED GLOOMY ECONOMIC FORECAST BY PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT—PARTICIPATION BY DEPARTMENT OF  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

**Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond):**  
Madam Speaker, my question directed to the Minister of