

people without asking questions and attempt to sort out the situation later. Churches have played that role, and increasingly they are playing that role.

The question of search and seizure raises many legal issues. Historically, Canada has had pretty Draconian laws on search and seizure. We then brought in the Charter of Rights which limited the state in its search and seizure ability and put constraints on it, and it did not happen soon enough. In the past we had been excessive on this subject. That has been reversed and some legal restraints have been brought in, and now in Bill C-84 there will be new search and seizure, and quite Draconian provisions.

Under Clause 11 of Bill C-84, the Immigration Commission may search and seize, even without a warrant, anything it considers related to the offences of smuggling 10 or more people, or disembarking them at sea. This could include lawyers' privileged solicitor-client documents, or a refugee's personal records. This could mean records that may be very dangerous if they fell into the wrong hands. In short, these provisions are excessive and could certainly pose serious dangers for the people involved.

I wish to add that these provisions will not do us any good because they are directed at the victims of exploitation. They are not directed in any constructive way to go after the culprits, the people who are organizing these refugee scams, which we know have happened. These provisions do not address that, they are excessive, and they will not accomplish any serious purpose we may wish to see accomplished with new refugee legislation.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): There is one minute left. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg North.

Mr. Orlikow: I wish to direct a question to my hon. colleague. Earlier today during Question Period the Minister of State for Immigration (Mr. Weiner) in reply to a question made the statement that there was wide support for this refugee Bill.

In my City of Winnipeg I find that there is almost universal opposition to the Bill on the part of spokespersons for the ethnic communities, particularly those ethnic groups where people have entered Canada in recent years, and from virtually all the church groups, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Mennonite to mention a few, who have been working to help refugees come to Canada. In this respect, what is the experience of my hon. colleague in her City of Toronto?

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood on a very short answer, please.

Ms. McDonald: Very briefly, Madam Speaker, there is a great deal of concern among families who are waiting for relatives to come to Canada, and who are extremely frustrated by the slowness of the procedures, and sometimes the unfairness and restrictions of the procedures. I think that the Government is playing on the fear of a flood of refugees and a

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quite proper resentment from immigrants who are waiting for members of their families, and that it is making a scapegoat of refugees in order to justify a policy which is totally wrong. I hope people are beginning to distinguish between the fact that we need a fair policy, one that will distinguish between genuine and bogus refugees, and one that will respect the immigrants who are waiting for their own families to come to Canada, and not play on their resentment that they have been kept waiting while they see other people being able to jump the queue.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak to Bill C-84, a Bill which is among the most repressive legislation that I have seen in a long time. I find it hard to believe that in a situation where we know that there has been abuse and a misuse of the hospitality which Canadians are used to giving, instead of acting in the correct time and under the proper circumstances, the Government has waited for more than three years. It disregarded many reports, for example, the Robinson and Plaut reports. It waited until Members were on holiday, and with the arrival of 174 people in a boat off the coast of Nova Scotia all of a sudden it seemingly woke up and cried, "Hey, something is going on out there. We must do something".

I would suggest that this issue has been before us for some time. People were dropped off on the shores of Newfoundland, this boat had arrived, and daily people arrived by air, car, bus, train, and yet nothing was done.

The Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) has raised the issue of illegal immigrants or illegal migrants coming into Canada. We have heard from him about the use or abuse of these people who found themselves in difficult circumstances, whether they were true refugees in the definition sense of the United Nations, or whether they were economic refugees who were looking for a better life-style. What happened to these people was the trafficking in their flesh and in their misery by unconscionable smugglers who were taking money and using their misfortune to bring them illegally into Canada.

There is no question that that is not the manner in which Canadians wish to see their laws used or addressed. Canadians are fair-minded and open-minded people. Canadians expect to see a decent way of life and respect for law and order.

The Government had before it these unconscionable people, and instead of addressing the issue two and a half years ago and issuing visas, it ignored what were the proper types of approaches and bringing in a piece of legislation that would be a reflection of Canadian values at the same time as stopping the illegal use of our borders by people who do not deserve or should not have access to or be hosted in this land.

Essentially, in Bill C-84 we are talking about a very sensitive area. We are talking about refugees, people who are fleeing from perceived persecution, who have practically nothing but the clothes on their backs, and who often do not have papers because they could not do what the ads for American Express state, "Do not leave home without it". They could not run