

have signed, and there is another way of doing it. I think that Bill C-55 will be an unworkable Bill.

On February 3, 1987, the Leader of our Party, Ed Broadbent, wrote to the Minister of Immigration supporting a proposal of the Canadian Council of Churches for a refugee determination process. At our national convention in Montreal, the NDP passed a resolution calling for "a refugee determination process that is speedy, fair, and accessible to all, and which ensures the safety of those who seek refuge in Canada". There has been no lack of recommendations: the Robinson task force; the Ratushney report; the Gunther Plaut report; the fifth and sixth reports in November and December, 1985 of the Standing Committee on Employment and Immigration; and the proposal of the Canada Council of Churches. The Government has ignored all this and brought in a bad Bill. It has now brought us back here in a panic because the refugee system is not working.

Our NDP proposal would include a process that could be completed in three months. All claimants would receive an oral hearing before an independent review board within two weeks of arriving. There could be a review of unsuccessful claims on the merits and on the facts perhaps to another board that is right there and that could be called soon. There would be an appeal to the Federal Court only on a matter of law which could be cleared up on another matter in at most three months. Therefore, unscrupulous lawyers would not delay the process and keep delaying it, because that is what lawyers would do. That is the way to have a system. The speed of the process would be a disincentive to frivolous, time-buying, false claims. It would comply with our international obligations, and it would prevent the deportation of legitimate refugees.

I will conclude by saying that this is a weak Government which is trying to gain by appealing to some of the worst fears out there in the country. It has brought in a weak law. Our job is to make it better. That is what we will do in this particular Bill.

I will remind Canadians that we are a charitable, thoughtful, and a civilized people. We are people from all different parts of the world. We have tried to adopt the best of the other countries in the world. We have always had a fair process for refugee claims. At the same time we are listening to what our people are saying on the telephone and in letters.

• (1650)

They want a fair process. They want to kick out unscrupulous people and keep genuine refugees. They do not want the battles of other countries to be fought in Canada; we have enough of our own problems here. They want Parliament to deal with the matter in an expeditious but fair way. That is what we will try to do.

Mrs. Collins: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few comments on my hon. colleague's remarks. I disagree with most of his speech, but I should like to deal with only a couple of remarks. He is trying, like his colleagues earlier today, to come forward

Immigration Act, 1976

with the pretence that the Government has actually come back to deal with the Patent Act. That is patently nonsense. As I am sure the Hon. Member realistically knows, we are back here to deal with the refugee determination legislation.

Another comment he made—and I have also heard it from other Members on the opposition benches—is that somehow the Government has inflamed public opinion or that we somehow influenced the public to come forward with these concerns. My hon. colleague knows that that is nonsense. Was he out there phoning people, telling them to phone other people about this issue?

The feeling on this issue came from Canadians. They are inflamed and concerned about dealing with refugees. Nobody imposed that on them. I think it came out of their real, honest concern, which leads me to one area where I agree with my colleague.

What he was hearing from his constituents was exactly what I was hearing from mine, that we should let genuine refugees in and kick the phoneys out. That is what we will do with Bill C-55. The very first stage is the pre-screening stage. Those for whom there is no arguable claim—and there are many of them—will be kicked out. We will kick the phonies out. The genuine refugees will have the chance to go through the proper system of hearings, review, and appeal to the court.

We know we are dealing with a six-month hoist, the amendment to Bill C-55 brought forward by the Liberals, which would put it in limbo for six months. When this amendment comes to a vote, would the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) tell me whether he is going to vote for a six-month hoist and no action, or whether he is going to vote against it and let us get on with further discussion on Bill C-55?

Mr. Waddell: Let me reply to that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Crosby: You are going to vote for it.

Mr. Waddell: The Hon. Member wants to read my mind. Sometimes I have trouble reading my own mind. I am glad he is so adept at doing it.

The Government tried to recall Parliament before. I do not want to get too deeply into this debate—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Waddell: It is a fool's game, because Parliament is already recalled. I do not trust the Government, and I do not think the public trusts the Government. It tried to recall Parliament before for the drug patent Bill. It is dying to get that Bill; it has to get the Bill to satisfy the Americans. We are going to deal with the Bill as Parliament is sitting, so I think it is quite convenient for them to recall Parliament on this matter.

They could have sent a number of officers down there, every officer they had, and dealt with the 174 claimants very