

*Immigration*

**Mr. Orlikow:** The hon. member asks whose fault that was. It was the fault of all members of the House and all parties who agreed to the amendment of the Immigration Act which permitted visitors to apply for citizenship while in Canada. That encouraged people to come here as visitors and then stay. All parties agreed to that so we are all somewhat responsible for the mess. The mess was also created by the fact that the Immigration Appeal Board did not have enough members to deal with the applications and so they backed up. We are all responsible for the mess, Mr. Speaker.

We can all agree that the government should have proceeded with this kind of program before. However, it finally did initiate the program which has brought forward 45,000 people whose applications are now being processed. In the last part of his statement the minister made it clear that in the latter part of the campaign the number of applications daily had increased from somewhere in the neighbourhood of 550 or 780 to over 1,400 on October 12. This seems to make it clear that a substantial number of those people who are in this country illegally had no doubt that they would be dealt with in a generous way despite the initial lack of information available to them. Because of the increasing rate of applications toward the end of the program it seems to me there is every reason to grant an extension.

I cannot fault the minister for having announced a week ago that he was not prepared to propose an extension of two weeks or a month. Had he done that, perhaps the applicants who came forward in the last week would not have felt it necessary to do so. I think that everything the minister has said and all the reports coming in indicate that the program has been successful and that the message did get across.

I want to say to the minister, without going into what might have been done or what was done in the past, that the program is working. If the minister were prepared to make a proposal to extend it for one month we in this party would approve. I think I can speak for my colleagues and say that if he were to bring forward the necessary amendment we would permit its passage without debate. I urge him to do that and to continue the campaign the department carried on through the media so that as many of the people who are here illegally as possible will come forward and legalize their position.

● (1500)

*[Translation]*

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) for his statement on the regularization of the status of some 45,000 immigrants who were illegally in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this program reminds me a kind of temporary alternative meant to cope with some inadequate administration or the effects of a poor immigration policy. If this program has become necessary in Canada to enable more than 45,000 individuals who are officially non-residents to regularize their status, it shows that the Immigration Act should probably be entirely overhauled. How come Canada has 45,000 immigrants whose status is not regularized and why was it finally necessary to launch a

[Mr. Orlikow.]

publicity campaign to retrieve those people and invite them to become full-fledged Canadian citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this shows that our policy immigration is unsatisfactory, that it no longer meets our needs nor reflects the whole image of Canada abroad.

Mr. Speaker, the standards of our Immigration Act should be reconsidered so that in the future, such conditions will be avoided.

Of course, the minister and the government must be congratulated for having allowed these citizens to straighten out their situation in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, even though we have been making this proposal year after year, the same problem will arise again. Why then should they not tackle the real problem of immigration and bring this legislation again before Parliament in order that immigration standards and this whole policy be reconsidered and that this ridiculous situation does not arise again.

This is a shameful situation both for the people who have come here secretly—I know some who were afraid to report to these famous offices—and for certain foreigners who have made an application but who are facing some officials who cannot accept them because of an obsolete law.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that if this government wanted to be smart in this field, it would reconsider completely the Immigration Act rather than content itself with repairing damages.

\* \* \*

*[English]***BRIDGES****TABLING OF STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR BRIDGE**

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table in both official languages a statement on international bridges, with particular reference to the Ambassador Bridge. The text of the statement will be transmitted today to the parties interested in the Ambassador Bridge.

\* \* \*

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT OF CHILE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek the unanimous consent of the House under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move the following motion, seconded by the hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Harney):

That this House expresses its regret that the government did not see fit to withhold diplomatic recognition of the military government of Chile installed as a result of a military coup in which the democratically elected President lost his life and in which the fundamental human rights of many of the people of Chile have been disregarded;