

*Government Orders*

kidnapped refugees. So the delay is a danger to the refugee or the refugee family.

While our overseas officers are going through the camp to find out who would be the most useful people as immigrants to Canada and only secondarily looking at their refugee qualifications, the ones whom the United Nations High Commission has designated as the refugees most in need of being resettled are often told to wait and wait and wait and wait.

There is an extremely rigid medical standard used. The Mennonite Central Committee wrote to me several years ago concerning a very tragic case of a refugee family in the camp in Thailand. The family, after a wait, was finally selected and approved to come to Canada. The day they were to board the airplane the officials said: "No, this adult son cannot go with the rest because a recent x-ray shows he has a spot on his lung," apparently a touch of tuberculosis. The whole family stayed back. They would not go without him. The next year, when their turn came up again, this young man killed himself by hanging rather than run the risk of again presenting a barrier for the rest of his family coming as refugees.

If that had been an American refugee program, so I am advised by the Mennonite Central Committee, they would not have hesitated to bring him. They would have brought him to the United States and in a few months treated him for whatever tuberculosis infection he had. He and his family would then have been settled into the United States, but Canada has a much more fussy medical standard which has caused grief to many genuine and needy refugees.

There seems to be that attitude of neglect. We pride ourselves on being very favourable to refugees, but there are certain ways in which we are not. It is within that attitude of neglect that the government neglected for months and months to do anything about raising the loan limit to meet what the government knew well last year was the rising number of people coming from eastern Europe and using the loan arrangement. In order to meet the crisis at the end it said: "All the private sponsored refugees are cut off from loan possibilities".

I had a telex concerning two families in the Sudan being sponsored. There were three brothers: one was in Toronto, a Canadian citizen, and the other two were in the Sudan with their families. Eighteen people arrived at

the airport ready to go to Canada. They were told: "Come to the airport and board the plane". They got to the airport and were told: "No, your tickets have not been paid for". What a way to treat people.

• (1210)

If the government had given the one-month notice, those people would not have been brought to the airport and then told just to stay there. What would they do for a month? Camp at the airport? Go back to the refugee camp? They had made all their arrangements to come. That is the kind of thing that this government did in a fully unfeeling way so far as I can see.

Although it was the government that had created the crisis by failing to take action before today for increasing the loan limit, the government put the burden of the crisis on the families who were sponsored by the private organizations. After urging private organizations beginning with former Minister MacDonald at the time of the boat people when Canada invented—I think the first country in the world—private sponsorship of refugees, the government urged people to organize more sponsors. Throughout the 1980s the churches had been promoting sponsorships. There are staff people hired in Toronto by the United and Anglican churches with the sole obligation of helping congregations and other sponsoring groups to sponsor refugees under these government programs.

When the former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, the member for Surrey—White Rock, taunted the churches with not bringing in enough refugees, the churches kept on not only sponsoring but increasing their efforts. The reward for that to the churches is to be told now: "Your refugees cannot have the loan because the government has goofed".

It is a very, very unfeeling and insensitive program. The government likes to be proud of its achievement, but it does not like to see what its administrative actions are doing to the people concerned.

This brings me to another matter which is going to collide with this program if it is not attended to. We know that there are 15 million refugees in the world, mostly in what we call the Third World countries. They are third because they are less important than the first world, which is western Europe and North America, and less important than the second world, which is eastern