

passed to call his office on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

If we could organize an amendment to this bill that would give a member of Parliament some responsibility, subject to the department's review, then I could give someone a recommendation that I believe he or she should enter the country on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. I should be able to judge humanitarian and compassionate grounds just as easily as anyone else. The minister, once he signs humanitarian and compassionate grounds, it is through. If members of Parliament could sign for humanitarian and compassionate grounds with a condition on it, in other words subject to the department reviewing my judgment, then at least we could provide some hope for those constituents who are coming at us day after day. Quite often I know when we really take the time to analyze them, 90 per cent are on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. The minister just said the volume of them right now is difficult to cope with. Rather than just handing that process over to officials, give it to the politicians, the elected people who are accountable to the community. Do you think I am going to sign on humanitarian and compassionate grounds if the guy is trying to scam or if he is a bogus operator? Do you think we are going to do that? Then we would be accountable to our community at large. But give the elected members of Parliament some responsibility so we can deal meaningfully when our constituents come to us with legitimate cases.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie):** Madam Speaker, I did not want to rise on this because I got involved in a fight over a similar issue in 1987 with Bill C-55. In this case, however, I am very pleased to see that 14 of the 19 amendments I had recommended were included in this bill. These 14 amendments were not changed and I hope that will be acknowledged. The hon. member seems to use "immigrant" and "refugee" indiscriminately and I think that a distinction should be made between the two. I agree that it is the same bill, that it is one and the same thing. If there is a riding where there is a problem with

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immigration, it is mine. There are 350 cases pending at all times. I would have many questions, but I will ask this one about refugees, a subject that requires that we exercise judgment because there are humanitarian considerations involved.

First of all, most people who request refugee status have already been admitted either as a visitor or as a student. They have had a chance to appreciate our way of life. In spite of all that we may say about it, Canada is the best place to be in the world. We have our freedom, three meals a day and we truly live in a fascinating country. I have a great deal of difficulty agreeing with the meaning the hon. member is giving to humanitarian grounds. I would like to know if he would take the decision himself, if a foreign national wanted to come and visit Canada and swore that he or she would not remain in this country without requesting refugee status or trying to obtain, through his member of Parliament, immigrant status while remaining in the country. I would like some clarifications on that because, believe me, I am having a great deal of difficulty understanding.

[*English*]

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** I think with these amendments there will probably be fewer people coming on a visitor's visa and trying to claim refugee status.

I am opposed to bogus refugees. I am now talking about the fact we have about 60,000 people in the city of Toronto who are in a state of limbo because the system is not functioning properly. I would like to see that particular group get expeditious service. If your officials in the department are not in a position to process these people quickly, then members of Parliament should be given conditional power to sign on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Then rather than sitting at home collecting social assistance cheques, these people could find work or continue to work and their kids could go to school until the department made a proper analysis.

It is the people who are in this state of limbo who are driving those of us who are members in urban ridings crazy.