

Immigration Act, 1976

honour. Her Excellency, on accepting the medal, said, and I quote:

In accepting the Nansen Medal on behalf of all Canadians, I would like to thank those who made the decision to honour an entire nation for its openness, tolerance and generosity—I must praise the governments, charitable organizations, groups and individuals who have demonstrated the value of sharing and international solidarity... Each Canadian taxpayer has had a stake in this process and might view their contribution towards the re-establishment of refugees as an investment in the welfare of humanity.

These are the words of Her Excellency the Right Hon. Jeanne Sauv , Governor General of Canada. We certainly would not have received that kind of recognition had the Tories been in power in the preceding years, of that I am quite sure.

Let me refer to this notion of a crisis which compels this Government to call Parliament together. The Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner) earlier punched that inflated balloon down to its real dimensions. In my opinion, if there is a crisis, it is a crisis because of the Government's mismanagement, delays, ineptitude and indecision over almost three years. The Government delayed because it could not act upon three reports and because it yielded to the exploitation of fears in and outside of its own ranks. It is very interesting to learn today about the conflict within the Tory ranks of two Members, the Hon. Member for Etobicoke North (Mr. Pennock) and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration. On the one hand, the Hon. Member for Etobicoke North sent out a letter to his constituents informing them he is angry because he feels that his Government acted responsibly to change the law and, on the other hand—and listen to this, Mr. Speaker, because this is extremely revealing—the Progressive Conservative Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration in a press release yesterday is quoted as saying, and I quote:

In May 1987, the Government tabled Bill C-55, a Bill to amend the Immigration Act. It proposes a series of changes to the refugee determination process which would make it almost impossible for many genuine refugees to make a claim, and is in probable violation of both the U.N. convention on refugees (which we have signed and ratified) as well as our own Charter of Rights and Freedoms—

This is not an opposition Member saying this. It is the Progressive Conservative Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration commenting on Bill C-55. How do you like that, Mr. Speaker? In a press release issued by the Chairman of that committee, a member of the Conservative caucus, he shows he has seen through the smoke and has at least called it the way it is. That is quite an indictment. It points to quite a sham. I congratulate the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration for his courage. He unmasked the real substance of Bill C-55. He took seriously his own task and his own commitment as Chairman of that committee.

• (1750)

The crisis is not one engendered by 73 Members of Parliament. It is caused by the measure itself. It is built into it. It has

not been criticized by us; it has been criticized by the Chairman of the committee who happens to be a member of the government Party. How do you like that, Mr. Speaker?

I ask myself what the Government's reaction would have been if the boat had been full of Europeans. Have you asked yourself that question, Mr. Speaker? Suppose that boat had been full of people coming from any European country, white people without turbans, without daggers, and without anything with which we are not familiar. Would there have been such a panic? Would there have been such a crisis? Let us be honest. Let us try to ask ourselves that question. Let us try to face that type of intellectual and necessary exercise. If instead that pathetic boat had been a liner full of people with \$1 million each applying to be accepted into Canada, what would have been our reaction? Just let us ask ourselves that question. Would there have been a sense of crisis? Would there have been a recall of Parliament to deal with 177 millionaires, white, asking to be admitted?

Mr. Lewis: What was the Liberal reaction in 1943?

Mr. Caccia: Come on, Mr. Parliamentary Secretary, be honest. Ask yourself what your reaction would have been. Get up and speak in this debate. It would be interesting to hear what the answer of the Parliamentary Secretary would be.

I submit to Hon. Members that Canadians should not be misled. It is a valuable service that *The Toronto Star* is playing by informing and educating the public as it does today with respect to what happened exactly one year ago.

Mr. Attewell: Did anyone telephone your office?

Mr. Caccia: Of course I received telephone calls. We all received telephone calls. We received telephone calls with respect to Bill C-55, something that the Hon. Member would have heard me state when I first started my intervention if he had been here. Of course we did.

All Hon. Members will remember how successful the Ugandans were, how successful the Vietnamese people were and how successful the Tibetans were. We all know how successful subsequent waves of refugees will be if admitted to our country. But we cannot prejudge them. We cannot prejudge people before they have had the opportunity to make their cases. Their cases must be made.

In informing Canadians and in ensuring that they are not misled the Government has failed on a very important front. That is to say that it has not made sure that Canadians know and understand that the flow of immigrants is one flow and that the flow of refugees is another. When one refugee is admitted, we are not denying one immigrant entry. That is the task, the duty and the obligation of the Minister of Immigration. He must ensure that this is fully understood. He must diffuse public opinion in this regard in order to remove the fears and to ensure that refugees are not perceived as being competitors to the normal flow of immigrants.