

We are now facing a serious problem, but if we could put party politics aside, I believe that we could develop a good immigration policy for Canada.

● (1400)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will recognize the Hon. Members for York East (Mr. Redway), York West (Mr. Marchi) and Windsor—Walkerville (Mr. McCurdy) for questions within the next five minutes.

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question or two to the Hon. Member. On July 17, on *The National* on the CBC the Leader of the Member's Party said:

That boat might well have been apprehended and could have been turned back because this is not a legitimate refugee process.

The reporter asked:

Do we know that now?

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) replied:

Well, we know that the boat apparently comes from Europe and I don't know of any country in Europe that's persecuting people. I mean, this is not a boat that came from a country of origin.

On July 19, on the CBC radio program *Cross-Country Checkup*, when asked by a reporter:

But Mr. Turner, how do we know that some of these people wouldn't qualify under the Canadian system?

—the Hon. Leader of the Opposition said:

Well, they're not—if they came from Europe they were not fleeing a situation where they were facing prosecution or imprisonment or death. Well, I think the burden of proof—in situations where you've got a commercial enterprise and obviously a fraudulent effort to manipulate and bypass our regular refugee or our immigration policy—is on the boat.

On *The National* on July 27, he said:

The people on board could have been examined given some due processing, either at sea, or at port.

Does the Hon. Member agree with those statements by the Leader of his Party or does he, rather, agree with statements by the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) who, when asked about those statements on July 20 on CBC's *Newshour* said:

I have some difficulty in appreciating that position, in its entirety, because our position has been for the last two years, and that he's advocating as, is that there needs to be a processing.

On the same day on CBC's *Newshour* the Hon. Member for York West said:

I don't concur with that. I believe that processing should be done, and one should be assured of the determination.

Subsequently, on August 1, when asked about the situation, the Hon. Member for York West said that the Leader of the Opposition never checked with him before speaking out.

Now, does the Hon. Member agree with the position of his Party Leader, does he agree with the position of the Hon. Member for York West or, alternatively, does he agree with

Immigration Act, 1976

the Director of Communications for the Liberal Party who, when asked about the situation, said:

It was very windy that day.

Does the Hon. Member agree with his Leader on this position, does he agree with the Hon. Member for York West, or does he agree with Mr. Raymond Heard, the Opposition Leader's communications director?

Mr. Gagliano: Mr. Speaker, after the way in which the Hon. Member addressed the question I wonder whether I should continue in his vein and ask him if he agrees with his Leader who said that he considers those people to be illegal aliens as if they were coming from the moon.

The Member is trying to create the impression that there is a discrepancy between the statements of the Liberal Leader and those of our official spokesperson on immigration. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) for the fight he has been leading on behalf of the Liberal Party and for the speech he delivered in the House yesterday.

This is the Conservative way of doing things instead of standing up and stating a position. The other day the Member got up in the House and said that there were 10,000 Sicilians in his riding. I would like to remind the Member that Sicily is part of Italy, it has not yet separated. I also come from Sicily.

Instead of expressing the concerns of his constituents and proposing a solution to this crisis, he is trying to find a discrepancy among Liberal Members.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to advise Hon. Members that the Hon. Member has exceeded the time for questions and comments, but I will allow the Hon. Members for York West and Windsor—Walkerville to ask questions if they will ease up on the preambles.

[Translation]

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, I followed with much interest and am very proud of the speech made by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard—Anjou (Mr. Gagliano).

Proud because he spoke in a way that was both very emotional and very practical of his experience as an immigrant, and of the role played by the immigration process in developing and building this country. Because this country's history is based on the immigration process, and he explained in a very moving, very sensitive manner the immigrant's story. He has not travelled all over the world to find his new land. So if that immigrant had not enjoyed the life that is yours and mine in this country, we would have no immigrants in Parliament. But the Hon. Member rightly said that we need an immigration policy in order to make this country bigger and better than it is today.

I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard—Anjou how he views an immigration policy, at the time when we have many people living in Canada, families with no boys