

*Immigration Act, 1976*

signatories to those conventions. We have to deal with refugees who come to our borders. I get the feeling that many of our people do not understand that, that there is this refugee law to which Canada is a signatory. We received an international award, as an Hon. Member just said, for our treatment of refugees. I am told that since World War II we have accepted 500,000 refugees: 40,000 Hungarians, 7,000 Ugandans, 100,000 Vietnamese, and many others. We have always accepted many refugees. Let us not panic that we have refugees. Let us try to deal with the problem within the international context.

• (1640)

My mother once said that your reputation is everything. That applies to an individual, and it also applies to a country. Canada's reputation is everything in the international scene. We have one of the best reputations in the world. We do not wish to lose that reputation. We have to be very careful when we deal with this Bill C-55. Therefore, I am telling my constituents to remember our United Nations and world obligation to refugees, and let us not be stampeded into passing a bad Bill. It is important to examine this law very carefully. I will not go into all the pros and cons of the Bill. It has already been dealt with in debate. I think there have been instances in the House where, by proceeding rapidly with a Bill in a fit of panic, a bad Bill can be produced. There can be another War Measures Act. I do not think that we wish that.

I wish to remind Canadians that we are a nation of immigrants. I am an immigrant from Scotland. There are other people from many different countries of the world. The immigrants coming into this country helped to create jobs and made this economy hum after the Second World War. We should not forget that. We should not have the mentality that once we are in will pull up the plank. Let us remember that we still need immigrants. We need honest, good immigrants in a fair system.

I will be a little more partisan here in reminding my constituents that they should not trust this Government. It knew two years ago of the Rabbi Plaut report on refugees. In 1985, in its fifth report the House of Commons committee brought forward recommendations. These abuses have been going on for a number of years. In the House in 1982 I asked a question about immigration consultants. I had recently returned from Hong Kong where I saw and heard about some unscrupulous people who were milking helpless, desperate people who wanted to emigrate to Canada. This problem has been around for a long time. For Members opposite to say that it is the Opposition that has stopped them from acting on this is patently nonsense. The Government has 209 Members of Parliament to our 73 in the Opposition. It is misleading the people to say that the Government could not have done anything with this Bill before and it is all the fault of the Opposition. I think that the Government wanted Parliament recalled to pass the drug patent Bill. In my view, that Bill means that prices will go up for people. The drug patent Bill is

a pay-off to Ronald Reagan and the American administration for favours on the free trade negotiations. That is why it is there. The drug Bill is not a popular Bill in this country. It is to pay off the drug lobby and its friends in the United States. I ask my constituents to remember that when they are judging the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) Government in recalling Parliament.

We will remember that a few months ago the Prime Minister welcomed the Tamils and stated that they were welcome in Canada. Suddenly we have another boatload, this time of Sikhs, and Parliament is recalled. We send the Navy out on a wild goose chase for some other boat that was coming which was found somewhere else. It was a ridiculous situation.

I see this Government recalling Parliament to try to inflame public opinion on this issue to show that it is decisive, so it can try to recover from its abysmal showing in the public opinion polls. My constituents are not fooled by that. They are not stupid.

I wish to say a couple of other general things. Angus MacInnis, who represented the riding of Vancouver—Kingsway, is somewhat of a hero to me because in 1944 he stood up in the House when the Canadian Government was deporting the Japanese Canadians, putting them in concentration camps, and taking their property. He spoke out against what his wife, Grace MacInnis, later told me was a tidal wave of public opinion. I am afraid that sometimes the opinion of our people can be whipped up so that there can be a tidal wave of public opinion that would force us into passing a bad law. As Edmund Burke said 200 years ago, my job is to give my electors my judgment. My judgment is that we should change the immigration system. We must have a fairer system that is quicker; the delays are too long. We have to go against the people who are smuggling. As the Hon. Member for Spadina said, we must watch how that is defined. Are we dealing with sisters of the church who are helping Central American refugees at the border in Buffalo, or are we dealing with guys who are making a buck off a cheap boat from Germany, or unscrupulous immigration consultants? That must be looked at very carefully.

The other thing that Canadians must remember is that this problem will not go away. It is a new type of problem. We now have airlines that take us very quickly from one country to another. TV is around the world, and people can see how wonderful Canada is. There is a Third World debt crisis. Those economies are losing wealth, and they have precious little to lose. There is a lesson here in the sense that maybe through this Canadians can understand that debt problems and Third World development problems are not problems that do not touch Canadians, because they do. They mean refugees and people flowing into our country. In other words, I am trying to say that problem will not go away. We have to pass a Bill. Personally, I am in favour of passing a Bill, but Bill C-55 is not the answer. As the Hon. Member from Spadina stated, Bill C-55 does not send refugee claimants to a refugee board. It denies some principles contained in the UN treaties that we