

Business of the House

Mr. Axworthy: It used to have.

Mrs. Collins: In fact, this year we will be accepting up to 12,000 government-sponsored refugees, and of course refugees are sponsored privately through churches and organizations. There is no limit on privately sponsored refugees and these refugees go through the proper channels for dealing with refugees. Indeed, we are and will continue to be one of the most generous countries in our response to real refugees and refugee-producing situations.

In terms of consultation, this Government and this Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) listen to Canadians. Is that not a surprise? We do not simply listen to special interest groups. We do not simply listen to people who have a particular interest. We listen to a broad cross-section of people and we need to respond to the concerns they have. In fact, we have incorporated—

Mr. Axworthy: So the Citizens' Coalition isn't what you would call real Canadians?

Mrs. Collins: I am answering the question. We did respond. We incorporated many of the recommendations and we responded to the basic concerns of Canadians who wanted us to deal with this issue and deal with it quickly and effectively right now.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among Parties and I think you would find that there would be unanimous consent for my proposal. The Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Dorin) had a private Member's item scheduled for today, but unfortunately he cannot be in the House. We have discussed this with Opposition House Leaders and it has been agreed to suspend Private Members' Hour for today and continue with the business before the House prior to that hour until 6 p.m., at which time the adjournment proceedings will take place. We have also agreed that the Hon. Member's item should be dropped to the bottom of the list of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I can indeed confirm that there have been negotiations. I would just like to remind the House that this cannot be considered a precedent for any future time when a Private Member's Bill is not proceeded with. I do not want to create any precedents at all.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I too want to say that there have been extensive consultations on this matter. As my hon. friend has indicated, we do not want this to set a precedent. However, I think it does indicate the spirit in which opposition Parties are trying to facilitate sensible and thoughtful debate on these very critical issues. We look forward to hearing the next

speaker with a great deal of anticipation. Again, we as opposition Parties are trying to make this place work. In that respect, when the request came, our first response was to co-operate as fully as possible.

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IMMIGRATION ACT, 1976**MEASURE TO AMEND**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Bouchard that Bill C-55, an Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1976 and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee, and on the amendment of Mr. Marchi, (p. 7338).

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, why has Parliament been called back into emergency summer session? Where is the emergency? Where is the crisis? The Government is using the smoke-screen of the refugee question as a pretext for quick passage of the Bill providing for changes to our drug legislation. This legislation has been demanded by the Americans as part of their required agenda in the free trade negotiations with our country.

It is no coincidence that the Chairman of President Reagan's advisory board on trade also happens to be the Chairman of Pfizer Corporation, one of the large American multinationals. The Americans have kept no secrets from us. Unlike our Government, they have been open with their priorities and their wish list. At the top of that list, of course, is this legislation which would open up more patent protection for American multinational pharmaceutical companies in Canada. That is the real agenda and the reason we are here.

We are here because Your Honour refused to grant the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) the privilege of recognizing it to be in the public interest to recall Parliament only for the drug legislation. Your Honour quite justifiably refused that request.

The Deputy Prime Minister, on the instructions of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), returned with a better subterfuge. It was not good enough to be direct about it and to state the priorities of the Government, so be indirect and choose the refugee question which has inflamed Canadian public opinion during the summer.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it is probably the first time in history that the Parliament of a sovereign country like Canada is convened for an emergency session to adopt legislation at the behest of the government of another country. The Conservative Government is using the refugee question as an excuse to push through quickly the amendments to our drug patent legislation requested by the Americans in the course of the free trade talks. The new legislation will cause the price of drugs in