

*Routine Proceedings*

education and the education of others in the same school classes.

[*Translation*]

Finally, I wish to point out that the relative priority being given in this program is the continuing increase in the proportion of independent immigrants. This is questionable in two ways, one of which I have already mentioned. It is done at the expense of family immigration and at the expense of government-sponsored refugees which is frozen at the level of 13,000. It has been at for several years and, according to her report, will be frozen for the next five years. It also raises a question of what the government's motive is in going abroad for independent immigrants.

We have heard it suggested, especially from the other side, that the government has to find skilled people at the lowest cost. In other words, there are poor countries who manage to train a few skilled people or a few highly educated people. We would like to go and scoop those up and bring them to Canada, rather than the government, at any level in the country, spending the money needed to train Canadians, whether they have been born here or not. It would be foolish, as has been done over past generations, to rely on simply bringing our skilled trades and our highly educated professions from overseas.

For one thing, if they move to Canada they may still be footloose and move on to the United States; that is a pattern we have observed. For another, it hurts the training programs for Canadians and stultifies the opportunities for Canada's young people to grow up and learn the trades that are needed in our country.

Therefore, I regret that the same minister who is responsible for training programs seems to want to undercut those programs with her program for independent immigration.

All and all, although there are certain details of this program that seem to be well managed, the main thrust of it is still not what the Canadian people want or need.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Shefford, on a point of order.

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, since this question goes to the very heart of the linguistic duality of this country and the minister has made a major announcement today, I would appreciate an opportunity to address the House and comment very briefly on the minister's speech, since what she said is important to Quebec's linguistic and demographic balance. In fact, the survival of French-speaking Quebec may be threatened by her immigration levels if immigration is not controlled under the provisions we hoped—

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, but I take it the hon. member is rising and asking the Chair if it would be appropriate that he have the same privileges as the two official opposition parties in responding to the minister. That is the point. The hon. member may be moving on to saying what he would say, if he was replying to the minister, but I have his point.

I have a problem, the hon. member knows that, with the rules. I would ask him to address that particular point and then I will hear other members.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lapierre:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without addressing the substance of the debate, in accordance with the Standing Orders, I believe we represent an important group in this House which has a point of view it wishes to communicate to the House. I think that, in response to the minister's speech regarding a number of questions of particular interest to us, and in the name of democracy and especially in the name of freedom of expression in this House, I believe it would be appropriate for us to have a chance to comment on speeches as important as the one the minister just made, which has a major impact on the constituents we have the privilege to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for special favours. I only ask that occasionally, we be given an opportunity to respond to important announcements made by the government. I am sure the government would not object if we were allowed to comment on speeches made in this House to give Parliament first notice of their policies.