

*Government Orders*

the last eight years more than closure was ever used from 1867 up until 1984.

The government has restricted the sittings of the House, has virtually ruined the committee system so that members of Parliament can no longer properly scrutinize the legislation that comes before Parliament.

The people of Canada expect Parliament to scrutinize clearly and thoroughly the government's legislation, but when you have the kind of farce that is being presented to us today, that cannot be done. There is no way that members of Parliament, even those who have become experts in the field of immigration, can deal with a bill like this within three days of its being presented to the House, without consultation and without analysis.

The government's soothing words with respect to reform of Parliament and respect of Parliament are just what they seem, they are part of the politics of rhetoric. It says one thing and does another thing.

Canadians deserve better from Parliament, especially when we are dealing with important matters. It is not only important that members of Parliament be given an opportunity to fully examine such bills, but the many NGOs in the field should be given an opportunity so they can consult with us and give us their opinions; the churches, the ethnocultural communities which are very concerned about immigration, and the immigration bar.

This bill impacts quite heavily on the transportation carriers. They should have an opportunity to examine the bill in detail too and to give us their views.

The bill makes changes with respect to the impact on health and social services. We would like to hear from the health and social services to see whether they confirm that immigrants are impacting in a very severe way on their health and social services. The bill talks a lot about terrorism and criminality. We should be able to hear from the police, from CSIS, and the RCMP.

It is very difficult at this stage to evaluate many parts of this bill. I can say to the minister that some parts, some clauses, are good, are positive. They are things that were requested and I give him credit for that. Others, in my opinion, immediately seem quite bad. Perhaps he has a good explanation for them, perhaps he can convince us they are good but they appear at first glance to be quite bad.

There are a large number of sections where we have not yet had a chance to evaluate their effectiveness, their impact, and consequently we condemn the fact this bill is being debated today and the government is trying to close the debate by Monday evening.

Immigration has played and will continue to play a very important role in Canada. Nearly all of us, except the aboriginal people, come from immigrant families; even the British and the French come from immigrant families. Immigration has built Canada into a great nation as it has built other countries, such as the United States. Like Canada, the United States is the great country it is today because of the immigrants that went to that country.

• (1640)

Every great new wave of immigration has brought new riches to Canada, riches economically and culturally. Consequently, we must have an immigration policy that is fair, humane and generous.

The Immigration Act that is presently the law of this land, which was passed in 1976 by a Liberal government and proclaimed in 1978, sets out the goals for immigration policy in Canada. Those goals remain in force today. They have not been changed and there is no attempt to change those goals by the bill that the minister has tabled.

I think I should put on the record some of those goals, not all of them, to remind the House and Canada of the purposes of our immigration law.

To begin with, it starts by saying that the purpose of our immigration law is to promote the domestic and international interests of Canada so our immigration policy or immigration laws are to promote the interests of Canada.

It goes on to say the bill will enrich and strengthen the cultural and social fabric of Canada taking into account its bilingual character.

Further, the purpose of our immigration policy is to facilitate the reunion in Canada of Canadian citizens with their relatives from abroad so as to promote family reunification.

It goes on to say that to ensure that any person who seeks admission to Canada is not discriminated against in a manner which is inconsistent with our charter of rights. Immigration policy is to be non-discriminatory based on