

Immigration Act, 1976

such a system is to abandon our responsibility to persons who are in genuine fear of death, imprisonment, or torture in many countries throughout the world which are producing refugees. That is why we profoundly believe that the real crisis we are addressing in Bill C-84 is a political crisis.

[Translation]

This is a political crisis orchestrated by the Progressive Conservative Party which is seeking ways to rally the support of the Canadian people.

Now, on the basis of the very last polls, it is clear that the debate which lasted for the greater part of August has not helped the Conservative Party. It stands exactly as it did in August before Bill C-84 was introduced. In other words if this bill was to be used as a means to regain first place, it has failed miserably. And by so doing, the international reputation of Canada as an open country doing its utmost to help the refugees, the exploited, the oppressed everywhere in the world has been jeopardized.

That is the reason why my party and I oppose Bill C-84, Mr. Speaker.

• (1220)

[English]

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I rise as much in sorrow as in anger to ask a question of the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy). I have never heard such a speech marinated in cynicism as was delivered by the Hon. Member. Its objective clearly has to be one of attacking people personally and without evidence. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I am disgusted with the tone of what I heard from the Hon. Member. He wanted to imply that somehow there was something wrong and abnormal with an attempt to assist a person to become a Canadian citizen when he knows that it is the duty of each and every one of us as Canadians to be helpful to one another and to help the country to build and to grow. He also knows that the very person about whom he spoke who asked for assistance to come to Canada is a person who has a son and who is married to a Canadian living in this country. In and of itself a great part of the reason that a person is admitted to Canada is for family reunification, something in which we all sincerely believe.

I rise at this point because I can no longer tolerate the cynicism and the holier than thou notion of the members of the NDP. They pretend that they are the great protectors of human rights. I will tell Hon. Members about human rights. Where it is failing is in the New Democratic Party where in its policy it talks about a population redistribution plan. Members of that Party would relocate immigrants across the country to give balance to population settlement. In the name of human rights I dare the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre to begin to defend that NDP policy, to say that that is justifiable, that when people come here as landed immigrants or new people coming to our country, as stated in the policy—

Mr. Cassidy: That is completely false. Prove it.

Mr. Malone: I will read it to the Hon. Member. It comes from my office and is part of the policy of the Hon. Member's Party. It is from the resolutions reference book of the NDP. I have read it and it states that that Party would take the authority and the power to allocate people to different regions of the country for population settlement.

I ask the Hon. Member to tell that to an immigrant community anywhere in Canada where people want to settle for their own personal reasons. Yet the NDP has the audacity to come here and claim that they are the only people interested in human rights. I dare the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre to stand in his place and tell us that he can justify his Party's policy which, for population settlement reasons, would put new immigrants wherever a Government of Canada formed by that Party in its interventionist and state-control thinking could justify it.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I am appalled by the comments of the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) who has not proven any of the allegations he has made. I point out to him that I have many cases in my office and elsewhere regarding people who are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who wish to bring their parents to Canada and cannot do so. They cannot do so because their parents are under the age of 60 or 65 and are therefore considered to be still economically active. Thus they have to be considered essentially on their own merits. The fact that they may have a married son or daughter in Canada does not assist them in any appreciable degree in terms of landing in Canada.

The Hon. Member asks, should we not have some openness in that regard? Yes, we should. But it is the immigration policy perpetuated by the Government that makes it difficult for the likes of this French teacher from France to establish himself in Canada. But if he did not happen to have an acquaintance who is the Prime Minister's wife then in fact he probably would not even be able to enter Canada. That is the real issue. He would certainly not be able to do it from within Canada. He might have to wait for several years.

I met a constituent the other day who told me that his girlfriend wants to come to Canada. She is English and has a university degree. She has two or three years of work experience. It seemed to me from the description that she would make a good Canadian and a good contribution to Canada. She cannot gain entry into Canada. There is something wrong with an immigration policy such as that which bars people who would make good Canadian citizens. There is no justification in having one rule for someone connected to the Prime Minister and another rule for everyone else.

I wish to be thoughtful and reflective about this matter. Mrs. Mulroney is in a very unusual situation. Maybe she just simply put a letter into the hopper and everyone jumped as though she were saying, "Jump, jump, jump". Perhaps she is unaware of the degree to which departments and so on