

Immigration Act, 1976

negotiations, and everything else that was going wrong with the Tories.

Parliament was recalled to deal with this legislation. Many people have brought to your attention, Sir, and to the attention of the Canadian public and the House of Commons that the Bill is seriously flawed. The Bill states that we have to punish people who bring in refugees. I could be punished. In the mid-1970s I participated in bringing the boat people from South East Asia. I was one of the people who participated in Project 4000 under the leadership of the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Ms. Dewar), who was then the Mayor of Ottawa. At that time as Mayor of Ottawa she directed a very successful project of which I was a member. If I did that today would I be a criminal, according to the Tories? That is what the Bill states. What it ought to do is provide punishment for the criminals or the people who have done something wrong. The Bill should provide for the punishment of people who try to bring others to Canada in a fraudulent manner for profit. That is wrong. I am the first to say that is wrong, but that does not mean that everyone who participates in helping the underprivileged of this world is a criminal. It is obvious that people who give of their time in an unselfish manner are not criminals.

• (1250)

Finally, one must wonder about the Government. For the second consecutive summer the Government has failed so miserably to accomplish its legislative agenda that it had to recall Parliament. What does that tell you, Mr. Speaker? It tells me, and I am sure you will agree, that the Prime Minister and the Government cannot get their act together. The Government cannot get organized in order to get its legislation through before the summer recess. If the Government had gotten things under control Parliament would not have been recalled for so-called emergency situations two summers in a row.

This was the second attempt this summer to recall Parliament on a so-called emergency. You will recall that the first time the Deputy Prime Minister wanted Parliament recalled to deal with the drug Bill. As you know, he was more or less told by the Speaker to get lost, and that did not work out. A few weeks later the second so-called emergency arose, and this time the Government succeeded in getting Parliament reconvened, the real reason being to deal with the so-called first emergency rather than the second one.

[*Translation*]

What I mean, Mr. Speaker, is that for the better part of the year the Government has been wasting the time of the House. Among other things, I would draw your attention to the many hours the House spent on capital punishment, an issue which should not have been brought before the House in the first place.

Mr. Blackburn (Jonquière): Why?

Mr. Boudria: Because the matter had been settled a decade earlier already, as the Hon. Member opposite would know. The Prime Minister was quite reluctant to revive the death penalty debate, but he had made a commitment, one of his 338 election promises, and he just had to live up to one of them.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There will be time for questions and comments after the Hon. Member finishes his remarks. I hope Hon. Members will allow him to finish in order that we can have a very quiet day.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Boudria: As I was about to say, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Government made 338 promises during the last electoral campaign. I have here a copy of these 338 promises. I shall be quite happy to give one to the Hon. Member opposite, if he has forgotten his own commitments, and to any Canadian listening to us who would like to have one. If they write to my office postage free, I shall be happy to send them a copy of the book containing these 338 promises.

The Government decided to waste the time of the House with the debate on capital punishment instead of dealing with many other serious issues, such as finding a valid solution to the refugee problem, and various other pieces of legislation which would have been useful to improve the lot of the Canadian population, which is now suffering under this Conservative Government, but that is only temporary. The Conservative Government has managed its timetable so badly that it has had to call back Parliament for so-called emergencies two summers in a row. Having done so, it introduced Bills which were seriously defective, at least this year. I indicated earlier some of the weaknesses of this Bill. While I am the first to say that we need new legislation to deal with refugees, we have no right to pass defective legislation under the pretext that we need something else.

We have to offer the Canadian population legislation which is effective and better than what was there before.

Now that the Government has refused all amendments introduced by the Members of this House, including the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi), whom I would like to congratulate for his excellent work on this issue, and various other Members, such as the Chairman of the Committee, a Government Member, who has had the courage to tell the Canadian people and all parliamentarians that this Bill is defective and could not and should not be supported by anyone, I invite all the Members of this House to reject this Bill and ask the Government opposite to prepare a Bill which makes sense and which can be supported by the majority of Canadians.

We should not forget that it was the Members of the Opposition who demanded one year ago that the Government introduce a Bill dealing with refugees. The Government dragged its feet, and one year later, introduced an excessive,