

Mr. Prud'homme: Perhaps the translation did not reach them yet, but I was just about to ask the question, so be calm.

[Translation]

Why does the Minister not recognize that it was a mistake to talk about demographic purity when dealing with a community or using an expression such as "disturbed by immigration"? Is the Minister at least prepared to recognize that his remarks certainly exceeded his thought, but they were certainly understood to mean—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope the Minister will make a short reply, and then perhaps we could leave this issue.

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has said that a language is a matter of word interpretation. I suggest again that if his purpose is to have me recognize that I made a mistake, I do not feel it is important. What I consider important again is to repeat in front of the whole nation that I have the highest regard and respect for all immigrants and refugees who have at last reached a country where they can enjoy freedom.

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES CONCERNING SALVADORANS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Considering the fact that Salvadorans are fleeing to Canada from the United States because they are afraid they will otherwise be sent back to Salvador, with its death squads and air raids by government troops, could the Minister give the House the assurance that the Government will allow these Salvadorans to enter Canada so they can claim refugee status and remain in this country, pending a decision on their claims?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that at the present time, and especially at Fort Erie in Ontario and Lacolle in Quebec, we are seeing massive entries of Latin Americans into Canada. Salvador is one of the countries to which Canada does not deport. So basically, anyone from that country who would otherwise be in danger of being deported will not be refused entry by Canada.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES MILITARY SUPPORT FOR SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Since the Salvadorans originally fled the bombing of civilian villages by their own Government which

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was armed by the United States and since the United States is now escalating deportations to El Salvador, will the Government publicly call on President Reagan to cease all military support of the Salvadoran Government and to cease his deportations to that murderous police state? My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

• (1500)

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): I regret that I missed the question, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I can take it as notice.

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IMMIGRATION

MINISTER'S BROADCAST STATEMENT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Employment and Immigration who, I think, realizes all parts of the country and all regions are open, without disturbance, to any and all immigrants in Canada. Nevertheless, given that the Minister's declarations sent out a very discomfiting and offensive message to all Canadians, will he not do the honourable thing today in the House, because it is a sensitive matter, issue a very clear retraction of the disturbance allegation and apologize for the message that is being sent from one coast to the other concerning people from all backgrounds and all walks of life?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, briefly, I answered that question earlier, but I simply want to add that it is rather problematic to pursue debate on matters that in my view can only add to the controversy that has already done a great deal of harm in this country.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York West. A very short supplementary, please.

REQUEST FOR APOLOGY

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Deputy Prime Minister a question. Here we have an Immigration Minister who refuses to apologize for a very clear and discomfiting statement.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Will the Hon. Member please put the question?

Mr. Marchi: Why don't you get up on your feet and ask your own question?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!