

*Adjournment Debate*

• (1800)

At the same time parties to the convention must allow only those imports for which proper and safe facilities exist. In Canada, regulatory initiatives under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to enhance the already existing tracking system for transfrontier movements of hazardous waste are now nearly completed. New regulations should be in place this fall.

In conclusion, it is a very long border. We have a very big country. A complete ban on the importation of hazardous waste should not be supported. Such a ban would not necessarily help the environment and would be of little benefit to Canadians or to Canadian industry.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 is deemed to have been moved.

### IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, on March 10 I asked the Minister of Employment and Immigration to initiate an inquiry into certain unfortunate incidents reported with respect to the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Such incidents were cases of members of the board sleeping while the tribunal was in session and refugee claimants were making their case. Other incidents were situations where members of the board were laughing or ridiculing refugees who were making their claim before the board. Then there were examples of racism or sexist remarks made by members of the board to claimants who were appearing before them. We also had a situation where a member of the board tried to exercise undue influence on another member of the board with respect to giving a judgment.

We have examples of inconsistent judgments where for example one member of a family was granted refugee status and another member of the very same family was not granted refugee status because they went before different panels of the board. There were situations where judgments were prepared in advance.

There were these many incidents which led me and many others to request an inquiry into the workings of the board, the Immigration and Refugee Board, to find out exactly what was happening and to take corrective action.

I wish to refer to some of the newspaper headlines with respect to these incidents. I have a clipping from *The Toronto Star* which states: "Snoozing adjudicator a problem for refugees". Another newspaper clipping states: "Tribunal member sleeps during refugees evidence". Another from *The Globe and Mail* states: "They're fired: two adjudicators laughed during man's story". This is about two members of Canada's refugee board snickering during an Iranian man's story of torture. Another one states: "Stress on the board drove official close to breakdown". Another from the Canadian Press states: "Rulings confuse refugees; Latin American community fears hard line attitude".

Then we have one from *The Ottawa Citizen* which states: "Refugee board official removed from the job". In this case the official was removed for trying to influence independent board members to turn down refugee claims.

I asked the minister to initiate an inquiry into all these matters. That was in March. Since that time I have met with the chairman of the board. This morning we had a committee hearing with respect to these matters.

While I still think many changes have to be made, I feel the chairman is taking steps in trying to correct these things. As a matter of fact, several of these people were suspended and now the chairman is trying to initiate further changes. I hope the government will co-operate with the chairman in making the necessary changes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I would like to bring to the attention of the House that we are under new Standing Orders here and Adjournment Debate is four minutes for those who are asking the question and two minutes for the reply.