1. Did the Secretary of State for External Affairs travel to India and Pakistan in December 1985 and, if so, was he accompanied by a delegation of officials, parliamentarians, business people and others?

2. (*a*) What were the names and roles of the members of the delegation (*b*) were members of the delegation accompanied by spouses or companions and, if so, which members were so accompanied?

3. (*a*) What was the itinerary for this trip (*b*) what was the schedule of official meetings, ceremonies, entertainments and excursions (*c*) which members of the delegation attended which events?

4. Was there a program of briefings in connection with this trip and, if so (*a*) what was the schedule of briefings (*b*) who gave the briefings and what topics were covered (*c*) who attended which briefings and in what capacity did they attend?

5. Were (*a*) government (*b*) commercial aircraft used to transport members of the delegation and, if so, in each case (i) which members for which part or parts of the trip (ii) at what cost?

6. What was the cost of each official function on the delegation's agenda?

7. Were security services provided to the delegation and, if so (*a*) to what extent (*b*) at what cost?

8. What were the costs of the (*a*) ground transporation (*b*) accommodation (*c*) meals (*d*) per diem allowances, in total and for each member of the delegation?

Return tabled.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

[*English*]

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that, because of the Ministerial Statement, Government Orders will be extended by eight minutes beginning at one o'clock p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 82—REFUGEES—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West) moved:

That this House condemns the Government's refugee policy for its failing badly to uphold Canada's proud and humane record for refugee assistance and for abandoning our nation's respected international leadership on this tragic, world-wide human dilemma, which will serve to jeopardize a meaningful international solution to what is clearly an international phenomenon;

That this House further deplores the Government's refusal to assure refugee claimants full accessibility to, and a non-adversarial hearing before, an independent refugee board; and

That, therefore, this House urge the Government to establish a fair, accessible and efficient refugee administration system, which would:

(1) guarantee full accessibility to the system for refugee claimants by rejecting any pre-screening stage within the process;

(2) ensure maximum protection and safety for all refugees and a comprehensive and adequate hearing of their claims by abolishing the highly restrictive "safe third country" concept as an integral part of the refugee determination process; and

(3) provide every refugee with the opportunity of an appeal before a competent and independent refugee body that would consider all facts and circumstances of the appellant's claims.

He said: Mr. Speaker, over 100 years ago, the test for Canadian people was whether the ideals and principles on which this nation was founded could be extended to all. Now, some 100 years later, the issues are relatively the same. The scope, however, is world-wide.

As we debate this motion in the House of Commons this morning, discrimination and apartheid prevails in South Africa, serfdom reigns in the mountains of Peru, people are starving in the streets of India and Africa and thousands are displaced, tortured and persecuted in every corner of the world. All of these people are refugees of some kind or another and they all reflect the imperfection of human justice and the inadequacy of human compassion.

• (1130)

In response, Liberal Governments of the past displayed a genuine determination to wipe away, so far as it was in their power to do so, the unnecessary suffering of our fellow human beings around the world. Their record was well respected and recognized in the international community. It was less than six months ago that Canada was awarded the Nansen Medal for its past refugee record. It was less than nine months ago that the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) defended his Government's assistance to refugees by stating: "If we err we will always err on the side of compassion and on the side of justice".

Given that backdrop, the refugee legislation presented last week makes a mockery of those two significant statements. The direction and spirit of the new policy is misguided and fundamentally betrays the reasons behind Canada receiving that medal, and betrays the Prime Minister's earlier commitment, particularly when we consider that the UN declared 1987 as the International Year of the Homeless.

The policy, Your Honour, is an inadequate and insensitive culmination of a two and a half year consultation process. Most of the organizations and churches, who have invested their time, energy and talent towards creating a better and humane refugee system, are now vehemently opposed to the major tenets of the Bill. Yes, the ideal refugee system, like the ideal world, does not exist. However, it is irresponsible to design and implement a new refugee determination system in light of very glaring and significant shortcomings.

For the past several months the Government has been waging an unholy war with a strategy which tried to fabricate a crisis that would have Canada invaded by thousands upon thousands of refugees. It tried to manipulate public opinion so as to justify its legislation which will very clearly and obviously be marketed on the principle of curbing abuse. It was hoped, of course, that this would help redress the Tory Government's dismal popularity across the country.

It has been painful for my Party and for me personally to have to witness this strategy firsthand, day after day after day;