

The hon. member has made many representations to me concerning the delay before refugees in Canada can reunite with their families. We got him to wait a year or two. Before he was landed, he could not. We are changing that.

• (1630)

There are many beneficial provisions here that will result in a more humane, more compassionate immigration program in Canada. The quicker we can get the legislative committee to do its job, I think Canada will be better for it.

As for his first question, the issue of the informal consultations at Niagara-on-the-Lake to be held at the end of the month, I can only tell the hon. member that this undertaking is one of national governments that have similar problems. These are informal consultations.

Officials of all these governments will be trying to learn from one another and see whether or not the mass movement of asylum seekers in the world is one that could benefit from a concerted approach. That is the reason why the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is there as an observer, to contribute however he can to this informal process.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, this year in Canada we are celebrating 125 years of Confederation. In those 125 years there has never been a government so abusive and disrespectful to Parliament than this present Conservative government.

We have before us today another example in Bill C-86 on immigration, a very long, very complex bill of 113 pages, 128 sections, tabled in Parliament and revealed to us for the first time on Tuesday of this week and then put to this House today for debate three days later.

We in the opposition have only had this bill, this very long, complex bill, for three days. The minister, with his officials who drafted the bill, who wrote the bill, who developed the bill, have had it for months, and are very familiar with it. We are today being asked to debate the principle of the bill, to debate the many complex issues in the bill, without having had the opportunity, because it is so complex, of analysing it properly.

### *Government Orders*

I spent the entire afternoon yesterday and into the evening, from 3 p.m. until about 8 p.m., calling practitioners throughout the country, experts that deal in immigration, to get their views on the bill. They stated they have not had the opportunity to review the bill.

The minister stands before us today and much of what he said we could all agree with, very soothing words. A lot of the printed material sounded very good, but I have come not to trust the written material that is put out by this government.

There are some good parts to this bill and there are some parts that are obviously not good, but there are many other parts that can be interpreted either way and have to be examined and analysed, that will have to be examined in relationship to the present act and the regulations and practice. The impact on those sections could fall either way.

It is not enough for us to accept the words of the minister or the publicity that is put out by his department. The editorials are on both sides up to this point. Some have praised the minister's bill, some have condemned it. In either case, I do not know how they can come to such a conclusion unless they have more expertise with their newspapers than the practitioners and the immigration lawyers have.

I am amazed that the United Nations High Commission on Refugees should give a pat of approval to the bill. I wonder whether it simply read the minister's press releases or whether it examined the bill in great detail.

I talk about the fact that the government comes to us with such a complex bill within three days of presenting it, asking us to give informed comment on the bill. Worse still, the minister, having just initiated the debate a few minutes ago and without even hearing from the opposition, moves for closure on the debate by Monday evening. He does not even wait for the debate to get going but moves for closure on the debate before any of us in the opposition have said a word.

I said that this is probably the worst government in 125 years of Confederation with respect to Parliament, and I mean it. This government has introduced closure in the eight years it has been in power more than any other government since Confederation. It has used closure in