

Nuclear Armaments

movements in history. It is estimated that between 70 million and 80 millions have left their countries of origin in search of a better way of life.

The problem is twofold. Unprecedented population growth in the Third World has raised expectations all over. The drift from the country into the city and severe economic problems have led to a vast movement of people looking for a better standard of living. On the other hand, changing economic fortunes in the late 1970s and early 1980s led developed countries to reduce greatly the opportunities for immigration and employment. As a result, a claim of refugee status became virtually the only means to obtain entry and work authorization.

This situation was further aggravated by a spate of ideological and civil conflicts in Africa, the Middle East, and Central America. Inevitably a large number of people affected by economic, political, or natural disasters not of their own making have tried to use the refugee claims system to enter developed countries.

There is no doubt that many of these individuals are genuine refugees in the true sense of the term. However, there are also many others trying to take advantage of asylum who are not persecuted or in fear of their lives because of their expressed opinions or beliefs. They are economic migrants who rightfully belong in the immigration stream.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before calling it five o'clock, I should like to indicate that the Hon. Member for Willowdale (Mr. Oostrom) will have 10 minutes remaining on debate when we continue this matter tomorrow or whenever, plus 10 minutes for questions and comments.

It being five o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

• (1700)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--MOTIONS

[English]

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

ADVISABILITY OF DECLARING CANADA A NUCLEAR ARMS FREE ZONE

The House resumed from Monday, August 31, consideration of the motion of Mr. Young:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of declaring Canada a nuclear arms free zone by prohibiting the deployment, testing, construction and transportation of nuclear weapons and associated equipment through and within Canada, the export of goods and materials for use in the construction and deployment of nuclear arms and further, the government should encourage cities, provinces and states throughout the world to undertake similar action.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): When the motion was last before the House, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Carleton (Mr. Turner) had the floor. I now recognize the Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse).

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in this debate on the Private Member's Motion presented to this Chamber by the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) and seconded by the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap).

The motion calls upon the House to urge that, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of declaring Canada a nuclear arms free zone by prohibiting the deployment, testing, construction and transportation of nuclear weapons and associated equipment through and within Canada, the export of goods and materials for use in the construction and deployment of nuclear arms and further, the Government should encourage cities, provinces and states throughout the world to undertake similar action.

A nuclear weapons free zone can be established as an international zone by treaty or by national declaration and policy. They are generally considered to be a confidence-building measure which serves in peacetime to enhance international stability and provide a positive climate for arms control negotiations. Nuclear weapons free zones are a sane approach to the slowing of the momentum in the arms race by reducing the flexibility of nuclear weapons options and the circumstances under which they could be used.

At this time, roughly 59 per cent of all Canadians now live in nuclear weapons free zones. This is a circumstance that arises because some 169 municipalities have declared themselves to be nuclear weapons free zones. In fact, each time I leave my riding to return to Ottawa by way of the Regina airport, I am greeted at the outskirts of Regina by a sign that says: "You are now entering a nuclear weapons free zone". In fact, 168 other municipalities across Canada have made similar declarations.

In addition to the 169 municipalities, the Province of Ontario, the Province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories have all declared themselves to be nuclear weapons free zones. The municipal councillors who attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' annual general meeting actually formed a nuclear weapons free zone committee to found a national organization sometime in 1988.

The activities at the municipal and provincial levels have been ongoing. There is acceptance in many parts of Canada for this kind of a proposal. Today's motion would urge the federal Government to get involved as well to ensure that the other 30 per cent of the population will live in nuclear weapons free zones.

Around the world, there are now four international treaties that set up nuclear weapons free zones. These treaties cover the Antarctic, all of Latin America, the sea-bed and outer space. A fifth treaty, the Raratonga Treaty, attempts to