

Kindy  
Langdon (Essex—Windsor)  
Lee  
Marchi  
McCurdy  
Milliken  
Murphy  
Pickard  
Riis  
Rompkey  
Stewart  
Wappel—51

Kristiansen  
LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso)  
Manley  
Marleau  
Mifflin  
Mills  
Nault  
Rideout  
Rocheleau  
Speller  
Walker

### PAIRED—MEMBERS

ni/aucun

• (1240)

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I declare the motion carried.

[*English*]

### MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Wednesday, November 18, consideration of Bill C-86, an act to amend the Immigration Act and other acts in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee.

**Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon)** moved:

Motion No. 9.

That Bill C-86 be amended in Clause 6 by adding immediately after line 9 at page 17 the following:

“(1.2) Notwithstanding section 10, where a person claims to be a Convention refugee, the person shall, upon request, be granted authorization to engage in employment on completion of the medical examination referred to in subsection (1.1).”

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, no wonder there is so much cynicism and disdain for politicians in this country when we see what the government has just done in putting another motion of closure on this bill. We have a government that speaks time and again in favour of parliamentary reform and democracy and yet, at the same time, systematically closes down debate on important and controversial bills.

Here we have the most extensive amendment to the Immigration Act since 1976, a bill with 128 sections and 113 pages. Yet at second reading—which by the way it called two days after the bill was tabled—second reading was limited to one and a half days on a closure motion. Now report stage where 69 amendments including 10 new amendments from the government have been tabled has been limited to one and a half days—a short day last

### *Government Orders*

week and one day today—and then the government is limiting third reading to one day tomorrow.

If the government had been reasonable and really did believe in democracy and parliamentary reform and had let this debate run its course, it would have only taken another couple of days. When I was asked by the government House leader and the representatives on the other side, I said that we could have done our amendments on report stage in two full days and probably we would want another full day for third reading.

But no, for all these amendments, for the New Democratic Party's amendments and for our amendments, because it has used up 45 minutes on this closure motion, in effect we really are not even going to get two full days. We got a half day last Wednesday and another half day today.

We are dealing with matters that touch the very heart of this nation. We are dealing with matters that touch on the peace and stability of the whole world. Experts before our committee predict that we will have an increase of three billion in world population in the next 30 years. We now have 20 million refugees in the world and here we are spending a few simple days on these matters when this should involve a lot of discussion and a lot of thought.

I have just come from a meeting at the United Nations. These matters are causing great concern in the United States and in all countries of western Europe: in Germany, in the United Kingdom, in France. They are allowing at least some time to discuss the matter.

Motion No. 9 before us is a Liberal Party amendment dealing with the granting of work permits. Right now, under the present law with the two-stage refugee hearing, a refugee is granted his or her work permit after being recognized at the first stage hearing. Right now it only takes about two months to get to the first stage hearing.

Under the bill before us, there is no provision to grant a work permit to a refugee until the refugee is fully recognized by the Immigration and Refugee Board. In the past this has taken up to two years but now takes between five and six months. But we do not know what might happen with the increased flows of refugees. There is no provision in this bill to provide for the quick