

*Immigration Act, 1976***GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

IMMIGRATION ACT, 1976

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Bouchard that Bill C-84, an Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1976 and the Criminal Code in consequence thereof, be read the third time and passed.

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Madam Speaker, in rising to debate Bill C-84 I must register the strongest possible concerns with what the Government is doing on the issue of refugees. I am appalled at the legislation before us today. I am appalled by the hypocrisy of the Government in dealing with this issue. The legislation before us today will not deal with the genuine concerns people have about fraudulent refugees and the smuggling of people into the country for commercial purposes in order to make money from the misery of others. The Bill will not accomplish the objective of Canadians to distinguish between genuine refugees and those posing as refugees in order to jump the queue.

I happen to represent a riding which, like many ridings in this country, has a very large number of recent immigrants and people who are trying to get their own families in. There is a great deal of concern that it is unfair for people to use the refugee process to subvert the ordinary immigration process. I and my Party would heartily concur with legislation that would make it possible to make this kind of distinction, and that would provide fair procedures for immigrants and refugees, and would crack down on the fraudulent practices that exist.

This legislation will not help with those problems. It will leave people extremely frustrated in that it is still possible for crooks and smugglers to abuse the system. Genuine refugees will not get into Canada. People will be turned away and returned to unsafe countries. Bill C-55 is a mockery of our international and Charter obligations and Bill C-84 is even worse than that.

I want to raise a number of very specific concerns. So many of our ancestors came to Canada under difficult circumstances. I am appalled that a country built on the basis of immigrants and refugees is so unsympathetic and unable now to develop a policy that would make the wise distinctions we do want to make. I am appalled that Canada has had such a bad record for so many years on the issue of refugees. Only fairly recently did we begin to reverse those trends. Very recently, in 1986, Canada was awarded the United Nations Nansen award for its work on refugees, marking the reversal of our bad history.

Now in 1987, only a year after winning an award for our humanitarian work on refugees, the Government wants to turn the clock back to that earlier and very disgraceful period during which Canada treated would-be refugees abominably.

• (1600)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

CANADA POST—DELIVERY SERVICE IN WINNIPEG—OPPOSITION TO CORPORATE PLAN

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, I have a couple of petitions with regard to the Post Office. The first petition indicates that Canada Post is reducing delivery service in the City of Winnipeg for its business customers. The petitioners call upon the Government to stop this reduction of service and to restore the service that they have traditionally received from the Post Office. The second petition I have is also with regard to the Post Office and is from people across the country who indicate that the federal government proposal to seek financial self-sufficiency for the Canada Post corporation by 1988 will result in cut-backs and deterioration of service of the Post Office and will consequently be at the expense of service to Canadian consumers.

These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to instruct the Government to make improved service the highest priority of the Canada Post corporation and to instruct the Government to abandon this policy of closing rural post offices and cancelling rural routes.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all question be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Shall all notices of motions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.