

*Oral Questions*

Liberal Party stands on the refugee question. No fence sitting, no statements about putting them out of the country, no statements about . . . I now ask publicly, in the presence of all Canadians that the Liberal Party tell us whether it is for or against the legislation aimed at returning phony refugees.

[English]

**Mr. Marchi:** Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day. I think Canadians are ashamed of having a response to a serious question—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Question!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for York West has the floor. I know he will be given the courtesy of having his question heard.

**Mr. Marchi:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister should ask for the response of the Right Hon. Prime Minister who has prejudiced the matter by calling these people illegal aliens before due process. The Minister should get his own responses before arrogantly asking the responses of others who have clearly put their position on the floor of the House of Commons.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## PUNITIVE MEASURES

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I will return to the Minister. Does the Minister not realize that the legislation provides that a priest helping a group of ten refugees out of charity and compassion could be liable to the same \$500,000 fine and the same ten-year prison term as would be applied to a consultant who charges \$10,000 a head and dumps the people on our shores?

How can he possibly make these two radically different actions, one for immoral profit and one based on human compassion, the very same under the letter of his law introduced yesterday?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will let Canadians answer my friend. On July 13, 1987, my friend said:

We have to deal stringently with those culprits who are responsible. That's the frustration—a lot of Canadians had in terms of people like—who takes advantage of the system and gets away scot-free.

**Some Hon. Members:** Exactly.

**Mr. Marchi:** That's our position.

**Mr. Bouchard:** I want to tell my friend today that he will have—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Minister.

**Mr. Bouchard:** Mr. Speaker, I have another wonderful quote from my friend himself. He said:

What about the most recent smugglers in Halifax who were sentenced to the maximum fine and a year in jail for bringing in the Sikhs? What if they are deemed legitimate refugees at a hearing? Should we have punished the captain who saved their lives by bringing them here?

That is what you are quoted as saying in *The Globe and Mail*. Where do you stand, please?

● (1430)

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Gauthier:** You should be ashamed of yourself.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville has the floor. I know that there are strong views on both sides of this issue, but I am sure that all Hon. Members will want to give each other a proper opportunity to ask questions and give a proper opportunity as well for Ministers to reply. I am sure that after Question Period those Members who wish to carry on a separate discussion with each other can take advantage of the appropriate rooms and places for that. The Hon. Member.

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## WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION FUND

## USE OF MONEY FOR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. It concerns the Western Diversification Fund recently announced by the Government. As the Prime Minister is aware, many western Canadians are suspicious that this might be a second curtain call of the empty Liberal Western Development Fund of Allan MacEachen in the early 1980s.

Some \$79 million has been taken out of the fund for the South Moresby National Park and another \$54 million for the Salmonid Enhancement Program. Western Canadians want to know what other previously announced or existing government programs, projects, or initiatives will be paid for out of the Western Diversification Fund? Just how much of that fund has already been committed to previous government programs and how much money will be left for small business and new projects?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the Hon. Member now takes the opportunity to criticize the Liberal initiative which he supported at the time it was announced. The initiative that was announced by the Right Hon. Prime Minister is different in several ways. First, the initiative has the support of a Prime Minister who cares about western Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!