

*Immigration Act, 1976*

America as well as human rights abuses are under attack by death squads. Such acts of violence include torture, abductions and threats.

Those squads operate the same way as in El Salvador. Therefore, it is suspected that they are not operating on their own but enjoy the support and protection of those individuals who also finance this type of operations in Central America. It also seems evident that LA's death squads members do not fear any reaction on the part of the police department. Finally, these operations might as well be considered as a new psychological approach to crack-down on the flow of Central American refugees to the United States.

In spite of the given situation, refugees seeking safety in Canada might be sent back to an uncertain fate in the U.S.—

That is why we are so worried about Bill C-84 and Bill C-55 which would require some people at our borders to be sent back to the United States. Certainly they could be subject to the death squads.

Casa Latinoamericana urges people to oppose Bill C-55 and Bill C-84 which deprive people of the right to be refugees. They ask that all of us write to the U.S. embassy as well as to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and government officials.

I must repeat that it is with great concern and sadness that as Canadians we have to rush through a Bill that was not carefully considered. I am ashamed that the Government has chosen to ignore the appeals and the expertise of various church representatives, refugee support groups and experienced lawyers in this field who have pointed out the errors and dangers in this legislation.

I am also concerned that the Government has brought in closure without really explaining clearly and honestly some of the procedures and impacts these policies will have on people seeking refuge in Canada.

On behalf of my Party, we regret that the Government has made so little effort to change and improve this Bill.

**Mr. Harris:** Mr. Speaker, I have a brief comment on the remarks of my colleague. Let me say how very disappointed I am to see that Bill C-84 will pass through the House. I fully expected that, being recalled for an emergency piece of legislation, we would see genuine debate and consideration by the Government to any objections that might be raised to what is very hastily arranged legislation to deal with an emergency. There has been much comment from learned groups, in newspapers and from leaders from across the country pointing out shortcomings in the legislation which has been put forward. I refer to the denial of counsel, the denial of the right to determination, and the creation of offences for humanitarian work. These are extreme actions on the part of the Government. The turning back of ships at sea in potentially dangerous circumstances is another shortcoming of this legislation. I expected that the Government would have listened to these groups and individuals who wholeheartedly and almost unanimously suggested that this measure is extreme. I thought that the Government would have made some changes to remove these extreme measures.

● (1530)

The Government has taken the position, and we heard the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) on national television the other day repeat it, that the people of Canada wanted action, and we have acted. This is a justification for this action, a justification that could be used for any action that a government might take. It can justify very extreme measures. The people of Canada had better be very wary in asking the Government to take action. We are afraid that it will not be considered action and that it will not listen to reasonable objections to the actions that it proposes.

Those are my comments. I am very disappointed in seeing the Government not listen to the objections to this Bill.

**Ms. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I must say to my colleague, the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. Harris), that he said very succinctly and much more skillfully than I what I raised in my remarks. I wish that he had time to make a full speech on this matter. I think that with his expertise in the legal field, as well as his humanitarian instincts in being a New Democrat, the House would have a lot to learn from him. I want to thank him for his comments.

[Translation]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The question is on the motion by Mr. Bouchard, seconded by Mr. Lewis: That Bill C-84, an Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1976 and the Criminal Code in consequence thereof, be now read a third time and passed.

[English]

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those in favour of the motion please say yea.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed to the motion please say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** In my opinion the yeas have it.

*And more than five Members having risen:*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Call in the Members.

● (1600)

*And the division bells having rung:*