

Supply

Polish descent, and all of the major Polish Canadian organizations, have had an open door to this government.

Mr. Crosbie: They went speedily through the door and out again with nothing accomplished.

Mr. Flis: The critic says nothing was accomplished. I will tell him what these consultations accomplished. Consultations with the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) led to refugees being allowed to stay in Canada on a one-year permit, allowing them to work and be eligible for all the benefits that Canadians are eligible for.

● (2140)

These consultations led to the policy where people from Poland who wanted to come as permanent immigrants were processed much more quickly without too many questions being asked. Last week when the minister appeared before the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration he agreed to meet again with representatives from Canadian Polish organizations to review current immigration policies and visitor-visa policies for the Polish people.

I have lost track of the number of meetings the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) has had with the President of the Canadian Polish Congress, Mr. Kaszuba, and other leaders of Canadian Polish organizations. I know about them because I was present at most of the meetings. These consultations led to the \$500,000 which this government gave to the International Red Cross to help the Polish people with medicine, food and clothing. These consultations led to the \$300,000 which this government gave directly to the Canadian Polish Congress so that the food, medicine and clothing would go to the needy people in Poland via the church, not via the communist government. These consultations led to the provision of food for the Polish people through our grain credits.

We have had meetings with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) to see whether there was surplus food in Canada which we could sell cheaply or donate to the people of Poland. I was a little shocked to learn that we have very little surplus food in Canada. We are the bread basket of the world yet we have very little surplus food. It is by consultation with Canadians of Polish heritage that we have managed to help not only the people of Poland but also Canadians by reuniting thousands of families.

What have the Tories done? Let me ask the official opposition and the New Democratic Party for that matter, what they have done of a constructive nature to help Canadians whose brothers, sisters and parents are in Poland? The hon. member for St. John's West goes shooting off his mouth across this land and in this House. What has he accomplished? He has discriminated against me personally today in this very chamber by referring to me as "the Polish Pimpernel". When I rose on a question of privilege, he withdrew his words. But that was too late. The damage was done. Just look, Mr. Speaker, they all laugh. They laugh at racist remarks like that. They laugh and they discriminate against a member in this House.

An hon. Member: What is the matter with you?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Flis: I can hear the word "turkey" and I can hear other things. I welcome these words because I want it recorded in *Hansard* so I can send copies across this country for Canadians of Polish descent to read.

As I said, the gentleman withdrew his words when I jumped up on a question of privilege. But it was too late. The damage was done.

On January 27, 1982, the hon. member for St. John's West asked a question of the Right Hon. Prime Minister. As reported in *Hansard* at page 14373 he said:

Madam Speaker, I would like to move from the world of fantasy land to the world of Po-Land.

He pronounced Po-Land disrespectfully. But it is in *Hansard* for everyone to read. It does not look discriminatory when one reads it, but the way the hon. member makes these comments is very repulsive. The official critic said this afternoon that he and his party have the full support of the Polish community. With that kind of attitude toward Canadians with backgrounds other than his own, he would be lucky if he could muster even 1 per cent support of the Polish community. I can verify that.

Mr. Crosbie: Be careful. I might run against you.

Mr. Flis: The hon. member says that he might run against me. I say to him "Come into the riding of Parkdale-High Park and I will run against you." The people will speak. They will not put up with that kind of discrimination or that kind of negative attitude. The hon. member was elected to help build a country for the future not to tear it apart; nor to pit one group of Canadians against another group of Canadians. Canadians judge us in this House by our attitude, our behaviour, our sincerity and our respect for all Canadians. We are all Canadians regardless of our roots. Canadians are not very impressed by our foul language which comes from the mouth of the official critic of the external affairs portfolio. I appeal again to the right hon. Leader of the Opposition to find himself a critic who will not be an embarrassment to his party, to this House and to this Canada.

There are other incidents of members of the Official Opposition who have made similar unkind remarks, but for the sake of time I will pass over them.

The official opposition likes to take credit for what other federal parties have accomplished. The hon. member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche) in his speech today said that it was his party that initiated the Vietnamese boat people program. His statement is totally false. The program for breaking the log jam of boat people was initiated by the Liberal federal government 18 months before the Tory government came into power. It was this Liberal Party which put out a challenge to the Canadian people that the federal government would match one for one the number of refugees sponsored by the private sector to a maximum of 50,000 refugees.