

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member, who is also the President of the Quebec Caucus for his party, has said that "the time has come to stop talking and take action" on Bill C-55.

Could he explain to me whether there now exists a crisis and whether he feels the need to take action? Why is it that his Government has failed to follow through on Rabbi Gunther Plaut's report in 1985? Why has his government failed to follow through on the report which the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration tabled nearly two years ago in 1985 and which had recommended major changes in the refugee determination process which would both be fair and provide all those seeking refugee status the legal protection provided in Canada by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

Why is it that the Government has procrastinated for nearly two years and has finally recalled Parliament in the middle of the 1987 summer recess, claiming that the time has now come to "stop talking and take action"?

How is it that Bill C-55 was tabled on May 5 for first reading in the House of Commons, but that nothing further was done on the subject, except holding three hours of debate before the session ended?

If the Government really wanted to act as in an emergency, how is it that it did nothing in connection with this Bill for nearly two months following its introduction in the House, except the three-hour debate held on June 18? Has the Government really demonstrated the urgency of this matter by procrastinating for nearly two years and now introducing a Bill which many who are involved with refugees feel is unacceptable?

Mr. Grisé: Mr. Speaker, listening to the comments made by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), an opposition Member, a member of the New Democratic Party, we realize there is nothing new under the sun. They want to have it both ways, they want to please everyone at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, they suggest we have been delaying the process too long, we have not been active enough. But a few minutes ago, here in this House, the New Democratic Party House Leader asked our Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) for more time to review the parliamentary procedure over the next few days.

Mr. Speaker, we are now discussing a Liberal amendment that would delay by six months the decision on the Bill, the passing of Bill C-55, and that Liberal amendment is supported and endorsed by their life-long friends, the NDP old boys, Canada's socialist old boys. And they blame us as a Government for having summoned Parliament on an emergency basis so that we could explain the situation to Canadians and provide them with the protection they are entitled to, prevent

Immigration Act, 1976

any possibility of a terrorist invasion—and I emphasize that—because of the mechanics of the current procedures. And this thanks to Bill C-55, and also Bill C-84 that was introduced this very morning by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) who, in agreement once more with the Liberal and the socialist opposition Parties, has decided to put off until tomorrow the decision as to how many hours the debate should last.

Mr. Speaker, on which side of the fence do they stand, those nice people? When will they be serious about the situation? First, as has been said, stop playing party politics with such serious legislation, stop playing party politics, Mr. Speaker, and provide better protection to the Canadian public. They are entitled to expect the best protection from this Government, and we have an obligation to do everything within the shortest time frame to secure and guarantee that protection for the Canadian people.

● (1250)

[*English*]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for my hon. friend who made an excellent speech. I want to ask him about the people in his constituency. My colleague will know that at the present time the House is debating the following motion by the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) of the Liberal Party that "Bill C-55, an Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1976 and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, be not now read but that it be read a second time this day six months hence."

By the way, that amendment is supported by the New Democratic Party.

I want to ask a question of the Hon. Member for Chambly (Mr. Grisé). How will the people in his riding react to the suggestion of the Liberal Party, supported by the NDP, that the discussion of this very important issue be delayed for a further six months?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grisé: Mr. Speaker, of course, I will be very brief in my answer to the comment made by the Parliamentary secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Lewis). The reaction of my constituents of Chambly is simple disbelief, Mr. Speaker—they find it absolutely unacceptable that, in this emergency faced by the Government and Canada as a whole, the Liberal Party come up with a motion to defer by six months the government decision, the implementation of the legislation. This means they are aware of the problem with the Canadian refugee policy. But not to worry.

They will let them come in for six more months, and then, after six months, they will consider whether the decision has any merits.

[*English*]

My answer to the Parliamentary Secretary is very simple. In no way will the population of the riding of Chambly, or the