

Immigration Act, 1976

be the echo of Cabinet outside, but take his responsibility as a Minister and return to Cabinet and explain the worries of all the people of Canada.

Today I see the same difficulty. Sometimes we deal with things that are very unpopular among Canadians. I dare say to you, Madam Speaker, that we know that in the short run this Bill has every aspect of being popular, but in the long run when Canadians recover from their first feeling, they will see that this is a bad Bill. Of course, it is obvious that the Minister has to be a good administrator.

[*Translation*]

As Minister responsible the Minister must be a good administrator. But the Minister, particularly the Minister of Immigration, has a heavy responsibility, and that is to explain to all Canadians and all Quebecers, men and women alike, the importance of immigration, the importance of refugees, and of course to say: We will punish those who abuse the system.

I am looking at one of our colleagues here, the Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce), and I am very sincere in what I am about to say, is he not an extraordinary example of what my Canada is all about? Now there is a Member who was not born in this country and who sits in the House of Commons. I have colleagues here, the Hon. Member, my immigration critic, he was not born in Canada. Our justice critic was not born in Canada. The former Minister of the Environment was not born in Canada. Then our champion of small businesses, he was not born in Canada. I singled out five Members of Italian origin, five, six, none of them was born in Canada.

So we must know how to explain to Canadians and Quebecers what immigration means, what the refugee programs means, and not confuse everything because a boat landed on our shores, an incident which got everybody excited and stirred passions, and led some to say: We will take action, we will show you we will control that because it is uncontrollable. When a major country like Canada gets excited because there was a boat last year and another one this year, quite frankly this is not the Canada we know. It is not the Canada my

Quebec colleague knows well. Canada is an open country, a generous country, a country which must build its future every day. That is what must be appreciated in the immigration field. That is what must be understood in the refugee program.

Monday morning, on a television program at Telemedia, I spent one hour telling Mathias Rioux, an interviewer who does not share my political views, that we have to explain to Canadians and Quebecers the importance of immigration and the refugee program. Our conscience must tell us what this program means and our future interests must make us aware of the importance of immigration.

If I may Madam Speaker, I shall use the last 30 seconds to conclude logically. We know that Canada has an aging population. We know that its declining birth rate problem is comparable to, or even worse than those of all other Western countries. It is therefore in the interests of Canadians and Quebecers to understand the importance of immigration, the importance of their obligations to refugees, and how well off we are in Canada, while saying that abuses should not be tolerated.

This Bill has been passed incredibly quickly.

I attended a few of the committee meetings, and because we received representations quite quickly, we could quite easily spend a few days more discussing this issue, and this is what we shall do tomorrow to explain further what we would like to do.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): With the priceless assistance of the House of Commons staff, we were able to check certain aspects of the notice given by the Hon. Minister of State which were causing some concern to the Chair.

We now conclude that the notice is in order. We have therefore received it officially, which should not prevent the three Parties from discussing the matter further to reach an agreement acceptable to everyone.

It being six o'clock, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow, pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.