

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 3, 1987

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[*English*]

THE LATE PRIME MINISTER BARROW OF BARBADOS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I would like very briefly to indicate to the House my very deep personal sorrow and that of my wife at the passing of Prime Minister Barrow on the Island nation of Barbados. May I take this opportunity to join with you, Sir, and the Speaker of the Senate in extending our own family's deepest condolences to the family of the late Prime Minister Barrow.

● (1405)

May I say to my colleagues that Prime Minister Barrow was a great Commonwealth parliamentarian, a great Caribbeanist, a great strength for the eastern Caribbean states, and a great source of strength to democracy in that part of the world. The loss of his presence will be deeply regretted by those who pursue democracy, by those who have a compassion for their people, and by those who look to the Caribbean as it grows and strengthens.

Many will recall that Prime Minister Barrow was the father of confederation of the eastern Caribbean states, although it did not live in the sense that our Confederation lives and, indeed, is reborn today. Nevertheless, the path that he carved out for those island nations will be long remembered and cherished by all of those who were there and by all of those of Caribbean descent, particularly those of Barbadian descent here in the great country of Canada.

PUBLIC SERVICE

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA—SUPPORT FOR EARLY RETIREMENT OPTION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, air traffic controllers, members of the Armed Forces and RCMP officers are all entitled to take early retirement. I think this is an entirely appropriate recognition of the demanding nature of their jobs and the importance of the services they provide. But I remind the House of another group of workers who perform an equally dangerous, stressful and important job and who do not now have the option of early retirement.

I refer of course to the employees of Correctional Service Canada about whom there seems to be a consensus in this House that they ought to have the opportunity for early retirement pursuant to the unanimous recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Penitentiaries 10 years ago. The Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher) has written to the National President of the Union of Solicitor General Employees promising his support for the early retirement option. I know a number of my colleagues on this side of the House have indicated their support and have urged the Government to act.

Frankly, I do not understand the problem. There is substantial agreement in the House that Correctional Service employees deserve to have the option of early retirement open to them. This question is one which could be dealt with quickly and easily. The ball is now in the Government's court. I urge the Government to introduce the appropriate legislation as quickly as possible.

Canada's correctional workers have waited long enough.

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ENVIRONMENT WEEK

NECESSITY TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Norman Warner (Stormont—Dundas): Mr. Speaker, Canadians enjoy some of the most beautiful lakes and rivers in the world. With less than 1 per cent of the world's population Canada contains as much as 25 per cent of the global supply of fresh water.

All of us derive benefit from Canada's abundance of water assets. During Environment Week we should be especially mindful of the need for adequate protection of these resources.

In the past we were as a people not as vigilant as we should have been concerning the pollution of our waterways. But we