

S.O. 21

regulatory process which the old Canadian Transport Commission had in its operations. That is the whole streamlined purpose of this agency. We will limit its operation to the powers as set out in the Act. Safety will be uppermost in one of its terms of regulatory operation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated.

It being 1.12 p.m., I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At 1.12 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to recall certain facts.

Fact No. 1: The Tory Government rejects the American invitation to take part in the star wars research program.

Fact No. 2: The Tory Government takes away tens of millions of dollars from our research budgets to invest \$800 over a 10-year period in the American orbital station program.

Fact No. 3: The Pentagon announces that it will use the orbital station in its star wars program.

Fact No. 4: I raise that inconsistency in a speech which I made in the House of Commons on January 20, and Mr. Jeffrey Simpson of *The Globe and Mail* goes further in the analysis of the problem the next day, January 21.

Fact No. 5: *The Globe and Mail* reported last week the comments made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) who said that he was so concerned about the situation that he has written to the American administration.

Mr. Speaker, the Government's position in this respect shows that it is entirely out of control, that it does not know what it is doing, that it is naive once again and is blindly handing over to the Americans the whole area of research and development.

[English]

ABORTION

CALL FOR PARLIAMENTARY STUDY

Mr. John Gormley (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, the present Canadian abortion law has been in place for almost two decades. During this time hundreds of thousands of abortions have been performed. Many of those unborn children did not pose a significant threat to the lives of their mothers and were aborted for the sake of convenience.

Many Hon. Members of the House agree with me in deploring the over 65,000 abortions performed each year in Canada. In fairness, other Hon. Members of the House do not agree and believe that abortion should be made more available.

Whatever the opinions of Members, they should stand up and be counted on this important issue. Canadians expect their legislators to take up the issue of abortion since the present law satisfies no one. The matter should be studied with the intent of creating a new and better law. Let us at least have the courage to speak freely about this issue.

There are no easy answers in the abortion debate, but we owe it to millions of concerned Canadians to begin asking the questions.

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CHINESE NEW YEAR

INJUSTICES SUFFERED BY EARLY CHINESE IMMIGRANTS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Members of Parliament and my constituents of Vancouver East, I say: "*Gung hay fa choy*", Happy Chinese New Year, with good wishes for health and happiness to all Canadians in the Year of the Rabbit.

I was pleased to learn recently that the Minister responsible for multiculturalism has agreed with the Chinese Canadian National Council that an all-Party resolution is needed to acknowledge the early injustices and the racial discrimination which occurred against Chinese immigrants because of the Chinese head tax and the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Some elderly victims who paid this tax are alive today. Their grandchildren recall the many hardships they suffered. These same grandchildren lead their fields in many endeavours. Immigrants come to settle in Canada as equals. By acknowledging these disgraceful injustices and seeking remedial action, all Canadians will be relieved of our collective guilt. We celebrate multiculturalism by celebrating Chinese New Year today.