

[English]

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

CALL FOR REINSTATEMENT FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, in Canada we have recently witnessed an unprecedented wave of violence resulting in unwarranted acts of brutality and, in my cases, death. The list of most recent victims is ample proof of the rise of violent crime in our country.

Barbara Turnbull, 18 years old, of Mississauga, Ontario, a Becker's store clerk who was shot during the course of a robbery on September 23, 1983, remains paralyzed; Nizam Ali, 18 years old, of Mississauga, Ontario, stabbed to death last Saturday while he worked the overnight shift; Nepean Police Constable, David Utman, shot to death at Bayshore Shopping Centre in Nepean, Ontario, on October 14, 1983.

Paul Chapman was fatally stabbed on the night of June 22, 1983, after being strapped into a chair while the two men accused of the crime sexually molested his girlfriend.

The increase of rampant crime is clearly evident and demands the immediate attention of all Members of Parliament. Consequently, on behalf of the 87 per cent of my constituents who favour capital punishment for premeditated first degree murder, I intend to use today's allotted hour for Private Member's Business to debate Bill C-213, which seeks to reinstate capital punishment for all cases of first degree murder.

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[Translation]

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

STATUS OF INDIAN WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel-Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased with the announcement made this morning by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) at the Constitutional Conference of First Ministers, to the effect that the federal Government is now prepared to repeal Section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act. Mr. Speaker, the House will recall that the Act discriminates against native women and their children. By marrying a white man, native women as well as their children lose their Indian status, while an Indian who marries a white woman continues to benefit from the privileges arising from his Indian status, both for him and his children. I am very pleased, and I am sure women members on both sides of the House and all the women of this country share this feeling with me today, especially on a day that is dedicated to the women of this country, namely, International Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my personal commitment to do everything I can to have this Act amended as soon as possible.

[English]

S.O. 21

STATUS OF WOMEN

PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with International Women's Day, I would like to speak for just a minute about the situation of women in sports in Canada. For too long women have been the victims of stereotyping and sexism when it comes to athletic participation. They have been discouraged from participating actively in sports when they approach puberty since vigorous activity is seen by many in our society as unfeminine. It is time this stereotyping stopped, and I hope our educators are leading the way by encouraging girls' activity in the same way they encourage boys'.

There are other problems, too, Mr. Speaker. If a young woman wants to participate in any level in sports, she must compete, first, for time and space in which to train, since access to facilities, particularly for organized sports, is a battleground between men and women. And it is men's sports which seem to take precedence when sports administrators dole out time at gyms, pools, and fields.

Women athletes are not the only ones who suffer discrimination in the sporting world. Women who wish to be coaches, who aspire to the boards of sports organizations, or who wish to be involved as senior staff in sport agencies, face roadblocks similar to the ones faced by athletes. Women deserve equal representation in all these facets of sports. And those who have the stamina and courage to seek excellence at the level of "elite" sports need the support of Canadian tax dollars to the same extent as their male counterparts. I urge the Government to improve the lot of women with affirmative action programs both in hiring and funding allocations.

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● (1410)

[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

TRIBUTE TO DEFENDERS OF FRANCO-MANITOBANS' RIGHTS

Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans): Mr. Speaker, the outcome of the debate in the Manitoba legislature on language rights for the Francophone minority in that province must give serious cause for concern to Canadians who favour equal language rights, a concept that is a cornerstone of Canadian unity, as it gives people with closed minds and with intolerance as their political credo cause to rejoice.

Although for some people, this debate has been an opportunity to show how narrow-minded they are and to indulge in demagoguery, others have shown remarkable political courage.

I want to express publicly my admiration for the almost heroic attitude of the Premier of Manitoba and his colleagues. I also wish to applaud the unqualified support given Franco-