

S.O. 22

by the territorial Government. Communities throughout Canada urgently need funds to establish and maintain shelters.

Constituents in the Western Arctic have called for the resignation of their MP and they will deal with him at the polls. I challenge the Prime Minister not to ignore this incident. He must publicly condemn wife battering and prove his concern by acting now to fulfil his election promises and provide special funding for emergency shelters for battered women and their children.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

SUPPORT FOR THE SPEAKER

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, this statement refers directly to you so I beg your indulgence.

Over the summer I noticed the combined media at one point came down on you with both muddy feet. You were accused of everything from recommending profligate spending, and heavy-handed treatment of the House, to lacking the confidence of the Members. I want to go on record as one member of this Party, and I suspect I speak for many of my colleagues, in extending my full support to you and your office.

In the first year of your speakership you have added a much needed modicum of wit and humour to one of Canada's most difficult positions. Despite criticism you have dealt fairly with all Members, displaying a patience and courtesy I would not have believed possible. You have presented your rulings firmly, soundly, and with tact and dignity. I congratulate you on your first year in office and I look forward to the year ahead with you in the chair.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member knows that messages of congratulation under Standing Order 22 are out of order.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN GATINEAU AND HULL-AYLMER
CONSTITUENCIES

Mrs. Claudy Maily (Gatineau): Mr. Speaker, residents in the riding of Gatineau and some residents in Hull-Aylmer do not have a telephone system commensurate with their needs. Because of long-distance charges within the municipality of Gatineau, and in some cases this means when calling from one side to the other side of the same street, between the municipalities of Buckingham and Gatineau, and between Gatineau and Aylmer, customers are more likely to do their shopping in Ottawa, where they can call without long-distance charges.

Mr. Speaker, it is not fair that large and small businesses, in Gatineau, Buckingham and Aylmer should suffer this kind of disadvantage compared to businesses in Ottawa, and that families cannot communicate with each other without paying additional charges. On the Ontario side, communities in the suburbs can call locally, except for one community where the problem is the same.

Mr. Speaker, we must have equity, and we ask Bell Canada to finally take a serious look at this aspect of its telephone services in the National Capital Region.

Later on I will be presenting a petition from 10,000 residents in the area who would like to feel that they are really part of the National Capital Region and enjoy the same rights and receive the same services as their fellow citizens.

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[English]

SPACE WEAPONRY

UNITED STATES STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 7, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) announced that the Canadian Government would not participate in star wars research but that Canadian business would be free to do so. What kind of double talk is that? Either star wars will escalate the nuclear arms race, or it will not. Either it will destabilize world peace, or it will not. If the Canadian Government has concluded that it will destabilize and lead to escalation, then to condone participation by Canadian business is nonsense. It is an attempt to play both sides of the fence at the same time. In addition, there is considerable opinion that the Prime Minister's decision violates our legal obligations under the non-proliferation and anti-ballistic missile treaties.

When nations disagree with some practice internationally, Mr. Speaker, whether apartheid or the invasion of Afghanistan, the restrictions apply to their nationals and businesses as well as to their Governments. The Prime Minister's decision reminds me of Pontius Pilate who washed his hands and said he would not condemn Christ to death, but left the mob free to do so. Star wars is wrong, not only for the Canadian Government but for Canadian business as well.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

RETENTION OF WINNIPEG AS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, on May 2, I asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) for assurances that there would be no amalgamation of the CN's prairie and mountain regions into one region headquartered in Edmonton. I was given such assurances by the Minister, as reported at page 4341 of *Hansard*: "Yes, I can give the Hon. Member that assurance."