

S. O. 31

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

GUN CONTROL

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, the horrible tragedy which took place on Wednesday in Montreal confirms that it is still too easy to acquire powerful and lethal firearms. If we are genuinely serious in wanting to stop this sort of crime, then we must take definite steps to better control the availability of these deadly weapons. Each time we tighten our gun-control laws there is a reduction in gun-related crime.

In the circumstances, I want to recommend the following that, one, there should be a mandatory two-week waiting period before any firearms' acquisition certificate is issued. Two, the FAC should be required to purchase ammunition as well as weapons. Three, we should require any applicant for an FAC to obtain the signature of two guarantors from the community who would support the application. Four, the FAC should be renewable every two years rather than every five years; and five, the government should designate the STRUM semi-automatic rifle as a restricted weapon.

Stricter gun laws are not the entire answer but they will help reduce this type of crime.

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• (1110)

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. J.W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are becoming increasingly aware of the needs of our environment for cleaner and safer ways to produce energy both here at home and around the world. Canadians are also becoming increasingly aware that nuclear energy and technology is an essential element in any policy to meet the world's future energy requirements, particularly Canada's nuclear power technology which ranks as the best in the world, both in terms of design and proven performance.

Therefore, I want to commend our government on the support which has been provided to Canadian nuclear

energy development and to encourage further continued investment which will be required to advance our nuclear technology, particularly toward the construction of the prototype CANDU III reactor, hopefully to be located in New Brunswick.

The Candu III concept appears to offer new design horizons in performance, cost and safety, for clean nuclear power generation on a scale to help solve the growing world need for electricity in an environmentally effective way.

I am convinced that the time is rapidly approaching when Canadian world leadership in nuclear energy technology will prove to be a critical and compelling factor in helping to solve the earth's intensifying environmental dilemma, particularly with regard to atmospheric pollution and global warming. We must continue to provide that leadership.

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HOUSING

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, housing in Canada is in a crisis, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto, where rental vacancy rates are only .5 per cent. Yet, this government now refuses to pay its share of the cost of the Toronto Seniors Central Housing Registry which helps seniors find what little affordable housing there is available.

In June, 1987, the registry was officially opened by the Ontario government and by David Crombie, representing the federal government, who gave a commitment for joint funding.

In October, 1988, at the height of the federal election, CMHC conferred upon the registry a national housing award for innovation in seniors housing. However, once the election was over it reneged on its promise to provide funding. The registry is now on the verge of closure.

I call upon this government and the Minister of Housing to meet with Metropolitan Toronto representatives, including Councillor Roger Hollander to resolve the funding impasse. This needed service for seniors cannot be arbitrarily abandoned by a heartless government.