

*S.O. 21**[Translation]*

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1:00 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21*[English]***HEALTH AND WELFARE****PLIGHT OF HUNGRY CHILDREN**

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I would like to express my deep concern for the plight of the growing number of children in the Hamilton area—and I am sure in other parts of Canada—who have been observed using local soup kitchen facilities in order to obtain food.

It must be noted that on July 7, 1981, the report of the Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child, 1979, entitled, "For Canada's Children—National Agenda for Action", included a section dealing with nutrition which called for a federal-provincial conference on issues affecting children, including the problem of providing food to hungry children and the feasibility of establishing non-profit food banks to operate on a permanent basis in Canada for the distribution of surplus food to those in need.

It appears that the most effective method of reaching these children would be through a network of churches and neighbourhood groups rather than through established government agencies, but food banks are needed as central supply depots to supply food to these community groups, and the various levels of government could assist in setting up such food depots.

In light of the recent phenomenon of hungry children in various areas of Canada, I hope the federal and provincial Governments will examine this Year of the Child recommendation in order to try to ameliorate a very disturbing situation.

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THE LATE CLARK TODD**TRIBUTE TO TELEVISION NEWSMAN**

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, the world of journalism and all Canadians are saddened to learn of the death of CTV newsman Clark Todd, whose body was found yesterday in an obscure Lebanese mountain village. For several days the shelling in the area was so intense that it

took five attempts by the Red Cross and CTV executives to reach Mr. Todd in the Chouf Mountains, just southeast of Beirut.

It is very difficult for most people to understand what is happening in Lebanon, with five or six different pocket wars demonstrating man's continuing inhumanity to man. Many also find it perplexing that the media must be in such a deadly war zone, with its barbarism and massacres, to see up close what is happening. People watching the nightly news in the comfort of their rooms tend to forget the risks which are taken to provide the coverage.

Like all professional journalists who suddenly find themselves in a dangerous region, Clark Todd felt the need to record the reality of the time. It is an uncomfortable decision that newsmen have to make, but if trained journalists do not cover wars, the truth is distorted. Armies lie, governments lie.

Clark Todd, a reporter profoundly dedicated to his profession, felt a responsibility to be where the action was. He did not die in vain. He died for a purpose. He died for the informational and democratic process. In extending our sympathy to the Todd family, I am sure the House would agree that Clark Todd was a good reporter. We shall miss him.

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EDUCATION**ILLITERACY AMONG ADULTS**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, according to the recently released report of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO entitled, "Adult Literacy in Canada: A Challenge", over four million Canadians are functionally illiterate and 28 per cent of our population do not have the basic skills necessary to handle responsibly the tasks of everyday life. In my home Province of Manitoba there are over 45,000 such people. The existence of such a large group of illiterate adults in a country such as ours is a sad comment, but even more shameful is the finding by UNESCO that the federal Government has all but abandoned adult programs for basic reading and writing skills.

While we pour resources into courses offering specific job skills or retraining, we exclude from these programs those who have not learned to read, write, or do simple arithmetic. We fall far short of countries such as India, Tanzania, and Brazil which are doing a much more effective job of dealing with the problem than Canada, a country with a large and modern educational system.

It is estimated that there are one million adults in our country in drastic need, one million individuals who, without further training, will never be able to participate fully in society. They are doomed to a life of unemployment, welfare, and low-paying infrequent work, unless there is action.

Adult education and basic skills must be an integral part of government programs of skill upgrading and industrial retrain-