

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 19, 1989

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 31

[*Translation*]

SPORTS

BOSTON MARATHON—CONGRATULATIONS TO ODETTE LAPIERRE

Mr. Charles DeBlois (Montmorency—Orléans): Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to a top athlete of whom all my constituents in Montmorency—Orléans are particularly proud. In the famous Boston Marathon, which was run for the ninety-third time on Monday, April 17, Odette Lapierre of Beauport came in eighth among all female competitors and first among Canadian women.

Ms. Lapierre's performance is even more remarkable in that she could not train during the winter because of a leg injury. That did not prevent her from beating the gold medal winner at the Los Angeles Games, American Jean Benoit-Samuelson, to the finish line, with a time of 2:35:50.

I therefore call on my colleagues in the House of Commons to pay close attention to this courageous athlete who will represent Canada at the next Commonwealth Games in New Zealand next January.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

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[*English*]

SMALL BUSINESS

EFFECT OF COPYRIGHT AND TRADE MARKS ACTS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): The most important job of a Member of Parliament is to stand up and defend the rights of small individuals or

businesses in this country who are treated with indifference by Government.

I would like to bring to the attention of this House the plight of Cynthia and Fred Brick, who own a very good furniture store that has been operating in the Province of Manitoba for the last 19 years. Because of the inadequacy of the Copyright and Trade Marks Acts, they are threatened with being put out of business by a large national franchise firm. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Valcourt) refuses to do anything about it.

The family has already spent \$80,000 on legal fees in the fight against this case. The Minister, when he was responsible for small business, lent his support but now refuses to do anything.

I ask the Minister, and I plead with other Members to support it, that when the matter comes before the Advisory Committee on Trademarks and Copyrights, the Bricks will be allowed to appear before the committee, present their case, and have the Minister take immediate action, so that this very fine family and their firm can continue to operate in the Province of Manitoba.

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IMMIGRATION

SUCCESS OF REFUGEE DETERMINATION SYSTEM

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham): Mr. Speaker, Jeffrey Simpson, of *The Globe and Mail* was "right on" in his recent remarks about the Government's new refugee determination system, when he said:

At last, Canada has a refugee-determination system that is fair and efficient. Now the task is to carry on with the new policy without listening to the criticisms from a few immigration lawyers in Toronto.

Many of my constituents in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville have been very upset at the serious abuses and queue jumping which have made a mockery of our refugee system over the past few years.

The new system is indeed working. As Jeffrey Simpson said:

The word is obviously spreading that Canada, while still appropriately eager to accept genuine refugees, is no longer a pushover for economic refugees and other bogus claimants.