

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? [English]

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Danis in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, concurred in, read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock.

At 1.03 p.m., the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[Translation]

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### REFORM OF SYSTEM

**Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, last June there was an important debate in this House and Hon. Members were asked to state their position concerning the reinstatement of capital punishment. I am sure that each one of us found the decision hard to make because of the impact likely to be felt after the debate. Today, in retrospective, I am ever more convinced that we made a good decision.

Still, the end of the debate should not signal the end of concern over the crime issue. When will habitual criminals serve exemplary sentences fully consistent with the seriousness of the crimes they have committed? We must continue our efforts aimed at setting up a court system which faithfully reflects legality and which has every consideration for respect for the right to life as well as for protection of the individual, a court system which through research and new experiments will do away with the shortcomings of the present system.

Mr. Speaker, when will the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) make up his mind to act and take all necessary steps to review and improve the present system? Crime is not a problem which concerns only police forces and courts of justice. People fully expect the Minister of Justice to do whatever may be necessary to protect individuals against the criminal element and, at the earliest opportunity, to launch an in-depth reform of the Canadian court system through appropriate measures.

S. O. 21

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

##### PALESTINIAN PEOPLE—SUPPORT URGED FOR UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION

**Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East):** Mr. Speaker, November 29 is commemorated by the United Nations as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people in accordance with Resolution 32/40B adopted by the General Assembly on December 2, 1977. Its objectives are to draw to the world's attention the plight of the Palestinian people and to mobilize world opinion on the need to take action to enable Palestinians to recover their fundamental rights. These rights have been reaffirmed by the General Assembly to include self-determination.

At present approximately 4.5 million Palestinian people are scattered over many countries. I encourage the Canadian Government to recognize and support the resolution of the United Nations on Palestinian human rights.

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#### WELFARE

##### CALL FOR INCREASE IN PAYMENTS

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, provincial and federal Governments refuse to face up to the fact that more than a million children in Canada are living in poverty. One out of six kids goes to school hungry and, of course, does poorly in school as a result. By the third week of the month their parents line up at food banks because welfare rates are so low. Many single mothers are forced into prostitution to supplement their welfare cheques, most of which goes to pay for very high rent.

The recent report of the National Council on Welfare shows that a family of four in a major city now needs over \$21,000 to pay for basic family necessities. Yet in most provinces families receive only one half of this amount. I hope Canadians will tell their Government that this kind of deprivation of children cannot continue. Governments can and must act.

The federal Government must insist that provinces implement the Canada Assistance Act which requires that social assistance rates cover basic needs. Provinces must raise welfare rates to cover the real cost of shelter.

I also call upon the federal Government and the Government of British Columbia to support a school food program which has been proposed by the Vancouver School Board. This can be a model for similar programs for poor children across the land.