

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, December 9, 1983

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

CALL FOR ACTION TO STRENGTHEN PROVISIONS AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, pornography is a serious problem today. The people of Canada recognize it as crime against them, and so should this House. I am proud to say that in a referendum in my riding, in the municipality of Coquitlam, 85 per cent of the voters expressed their opposition to pornography and voted against it. This is a clear mandate.

Something must be done about pornography immediately. Pornography cannot be masked under the anti-censorship campaign. You will not find a more ardent supporter for freedom of expression, a more vigorous opponent of government deciding what is right for me to see and hear, through bodies like the CRTC, than I. Nor will you find a fiercer opponent of criminal activity and vile behaviour.

The rights of the innocent individual are paramount. They must be protected from the violence and crime that pornography breeds. The laws of our society are designed to lay out standards of behaviour. There must never be censorship of ideas, philosophy, or beliefs. But there must be censorship of smut, obscenity, and pornography, just as surely as there is censorship of murder, theft, and rape. Mr. Speaker, the laws pertaining to pornography are too vague. Let us respect the democratic wishes of Canadians and address the problem immediately.

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[Translation]

TERRORISM

ATTACK IN JERUSALEM—RESPONSIBILITY CLAIMED BY PLO AND DENOUNCED BY CERTAIN PALESTINIAN CHIEFS

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish to denounce the senseless terrorist attack last Tuesday in Jerusalem which killed five people, including two girls of eleven and fourteen. Forty-eight people were wounded. Eight are still in

critical condition. The PLO was quick to claim responsibility for this act of violence. This massacre of innocent civilians reminds us once again of the barbaric nature of the PLO which claims to represent the Palestinians and wants to determine the future of these people. Such claims are absurd, coming from a group that is known to have planned and organized dozens of attacks on civilians and which has never shown any concern for human life. This terrorist organization which shows no respect for the civilian population cannot claim to be moderate, nor can it claim to represent the Palestinian people, since the attack was denounced by four Palestinian leaders, which constitutes a precedent, and clearly illustrates the gulf which now exists between the Palestinian people and the PLO. It is a historic moment for these people who seem to want to opt for moderation and reject the bloody and brutal ways of terrorism.

[English]

I am shocked as well by the silence which greeted this outrage. Is it that the world no longer cares or is indifferent to terrorism? It is this lack of morality which has led to the current crisis in international affairs and threatens to engulf us in a thermonuclear war.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, December 10 is the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout the world untold thousands are denied freedom to exercise the most basic political and civil rights. Millions of others will never know freedom from fear or hunger. They are denied the right to own their own lands, grow their own crops, feed their own families. In their poverty and oppression they rebel. That rebellion leads to their persecution and imprisonment, and loss of their human rights. We see it, Sir, in totalitarian states of the right and the left; the genocide of Indian communities in Guatemala, the murder of members of the Baha'i faith in Iran, the persecution of Jewish dissidents in the Soviet Union, the torture of political prisoners in Uruguay.

However, as we protest the violation of human rights elsewhere in the world, Mr. Speaker, let us be exceedingly mindful that our country is not without blemish. A Donald Marshall who is denied restitution after 11 years of wrongful imprisonment is a victim of injustice. Thousands of proud Canadians of Ukrainian descent, who were recently branded as Nazis by a