

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, December 9, 1987

The House met at 2 p.m.

[English]

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF LAW TO MAKE DEATH THREAT A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 7, 1987 in Montreal, Mrs. Irène Joly was killed by her ex-husband, a Mr. Dupré, who was arrested and jailed several hours later. In January 1986, Mrs. Joly had been stabbed several times by her ex-husband but survived, thanks to the unexpected arrival of her daughter. Her ex-husband received a suspended sentence, although the Crown prosecutor demanded a prison sentence. Since that time, Mr. Dupré had been following and harassing his ex-wife and her children. The court ignored the prosecutor's request for an order preventing the ex-husband from getting closer than 1,000 feet to his victim. For six months, her son drove her to work because he was afraid his mother would get hurt. Last Monday, Mrs. Joly was attacked and killed by her ex-husband.

Mr. Speaker, the law must be changed to make a death threat a criminal offence. At the present time, the police cannot do more than they are already doing because threatening to kill someone, however serious the threat may be, is not recognized as a serious offence. I want to ask the Government to act quickly, because I may remind the House that this is the second woman killed by her ex-husband in the past six months. Perhaps it would help reduce violence in the family and make ex-husbands realize their wives are not their personal property and that even if they leave their husbands, that is no reason to kill them.

REFUGEES

SENATE DELAY IN PASSING LEGISLATION

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, four months ago the Government introduced legislation that will make our refugee determination system faster and fairer. For four months that legislation has been held up by both opposition Parties and now by the Senate. It is time for action.

Thirty thousand people are expected to come to Canada this year and file refugee claims. Even though 70 per cent of those claims will be groundless, each case could take months and years to decide. Our present refugee system is inefficient, inadequate and inappropriate.

Canadians want and deserve a refugee determination process that treats all claimants fairly and promptly. The measures introduced last August will do just that.

Are the opposition Parties waiting for another boatload of people to arrive on our shores before realizing the necessity of changing our system? Or will they join with us and the majority of Canadians who recognize that it is time to take action and put the policy introduced by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) in place now? Canadians and needy refugees around the world can wait no longer.

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TAX REFORM

FLOW-THROUGH SHARES—CALL FOR RETENTION

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, Canadians living in northern regions are very concerned over the plans of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) for flow-through shares.

New Democrats realize flow-through shares have done much to alleviate a key problem in the mining industry, namely, the difficulties small companies have in raising capital for mineral exploration. Clearly there has been a very significant increase in activity and this has had the effect of creating many new jobs in regions of high unemployment.

Speaking in Noranda-Rouyn on September 24, our Leader, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), said: