

S. O. 21

was because she might use her influence with the bureaucracy and perhaps with her colleagues in other jurisdictions to facilitate the ends of the industry.

I wish to thank both Hon. Members for their interventions. I want to remind everyone that back in the 1960s it was a member of the New Democratic Party, Mr. Barry Mather, who first introduced a Bill on the subject of lobbying. More recently the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt introduced a Private Members' Bill to get this lobbying process under control. The former Member for St. John's East who recently left this House presented Private Members' Bills to establish a system of lobbying. The Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker) also has a Private Members' Bill on the subject. There have been all sorts of actions taken over the years in which individuals have said that enough is enough, we have to clear the air. Their actions have said that we must ensure that democracy in Canada is transparent and that the work of government is transparent, honourable and above-board. The only way to ensure those ends is to have a process by which we define lobbying and lobbyists. There should be a register so that everything is above-board and on the table for everyone to see. In this way there will be no suspicion that influence peddling is a reality in the country. The report of the committee suggests that major steps be taken to eradicate such a situation. I only hope that it will be followed up rapidly by legislation.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify the record since comments were made with respect to Bill C-22. I have never personally, and to my recollection neither has my office, been lobbied by GCI on Bill C-22. I have been extensively lobbied by the Canadian Auto Workers, the Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party which sent out some 300,000 letters, according to the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young). In terms of the public knowing what is going on, I think the public should know I have never been lobbied by GCI or any of its principals. However, I have certainly been lobbied by the NDP and a great many of its sister organizations.

● (1300)

Mr. Riis: I appreciate the intervention by the Minister. Again, I do not want to suggest that the process of lobbying is bad, sinister, or wrong. It is appropriate that it takes place, and it is a reality. We wish it to be done in a manner that everyone understands. Then the rules will be clear concerning who are the lobbyists, the process, the clients, and what constitutes lobbying. I appreciate the intervention and the comments of the Minister. I do not want to suggest the process itself by Members, organizations, or lobby groups is in any way wrong or inappropriate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

REFUGEEES

CONDITIONS IN PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I am appalled at recent news stories which report that starving Palestinians in the besieged refugee camps of Bourj al-Barajneh and Shatila in Lebanon have requested permission to eat the flesh of dead human bodies in the camps as they have run out of dogs and cats to eat.

An estimated 40,000 Palestinian women, children and elderly are attempting to survive in conditions which defy logic and put in question human compassion. They are being bombarded with missiles and bombs, and they have no food or medicine. The International Red Cross is being prevented from entering the camps. I urge the Canadian Government to do all it can to facilitate the entry of the Red Cross into those camps and provide what relief assistance it can to alleviate the intense suffering of these victims of war.

* * *

REFUGEEES

PLIGHT OF PALESTINIANS IN CAMPS IN LEBANON

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal): Mr. Speaker, my statement supports that of the Hon. Member who just spoke. A tragedy of unqualified proportions is developing in an area already fraught with human misery and political instability. According to authoritative eyewitness accounts, men, women and children have been reduced to subhuman conditions and have had to resort to eating cats, dogs, and rats in order to survive in the besieged Palestinian camps of southern Lebanon.

Since those refugee camps are under the jurisdiction of the UN I strongly urge the House and the Government to use our good standing at the UN to request that body to undertake efforts to lift the siege and establish channels to supply humanitarian aid in the form of food and medical supplies to the defenceless victims.

On a larger scale we must intensify our efforts to secure a just solution to the Palestinian question under the aegis of an international peace conference.