

SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Hon. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the seventh report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

The committee issued an earlier report entitled *Securing our Global Future: Canada's Stake in the Unfinished Business of Third World Debt*.

Today's report responds to the government's reply. It is entitled *Unanswered Questions: Uncertain Hopes*. It encourages continuing Canadian leadership on the critical North-South issue of debt relief.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-351, an act to amend the Criminal Code (terminally ill persons).

He said: This bill concerns amendments to the Criminal Code. Specifically, it deals with the serious subject of the right of individuals who are in the latter stages of terminal illness to refuse or withdraw from medical treatment in order that the timing of a more natural death may preclude unnecessary pain and suffering.

In essence, this bill will address the question of whether we allow individuals in our society to have the right to die with dignity.

As a society and as a government, we can no longer keep avoiding this issue as there exists virtually no government regulation or no judicial guidance concerning the right of a terminally ill patient to refuse or withdraw from treatment.

Terminally ill patients must have the right to determine their own length of treatment and physicians must, in turn, not be held liable for following the very wishes of their own patients.

A strict reading of the Criminal Code of Canada would indicate that withholding treatment from the terminally

Routine Proceedings

ill might constitute a criminal offence. As a matter of fact, the Criminal Code has a number of sections which either indicate or seem to indicate that doctors must provide their patients with full medical treatment regardless of circumstances.

Section 14 of the Code reads: "No person is entitled to consent to have death inflicted upon him."

• (1530)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I believe that is a brief explanation.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[Translation]

WAYS AND MEANS

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Gilles Loisel (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce a ways and means motion. It will no doubt be of interest to all of those who are concerned with the increasing fairness and efficiency of the GST.

So, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 83(1), I have the honour to lay upon the Table a notice of ways and means motion concerning the Excise Tax Act and other Acts pertaining to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.

I ask, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, that you designate an Order of the Day for the consideration of the said motion.

Ms. Copps: I would like to wish Happy Easter to everyone, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to thank the government to have taken our advice about the GST on books.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Western Arctic would like to present a motion, but she must have unanimous consent.

An hon. member: Let us hear the motion.