

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 21, 1984

The House met at 2.00 p.m.

● (1405)

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

### DISARMAMENT

UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION—CANADIAN POSITION

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the United Nations Disarmament Committee voted 111 to 12 for a verifiable bilateral nuclear freeze. Canada was one of the 12 that voted against the resolution. Among those countries that voted for the resolution were two NATO countries, while two other NATO countries abstained. Also voting for the resolution for the first time was Australia, which last year voted against it.

I know that last year, under the Liberal Government, Canada also voted against a similar resolution. I was personally opposed to that position at that time. The vote yesterday was unfortunate, but now is the time for all of us to rethink that position.

The Committee's decision will go to the General Assembly in about two weeks for final disposition. The Government has said that it will re-examine foreign policy. I urge it to put this matter high on its agenda and to reverse its position before the General Assembly vote.

At the present time there are 50,000 nuclear weapons in the world which have a destructive force one million times the Hiroshima bomb. Last year those weapons cost approximately \$1 billion. These weapons could destroy over 800,000 people in less than one day. Now is the time to stop this race to destruction.

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[Translation]

### TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR ABOLITION OF CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE TOLLS

**Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa):** Mr. Speaker, during the last election campaign, the newly elected Member for La Prairie (Mr. Jourdenais) promised in his campaign brochures and advertisements to abolish tolls on the Champlain Bridge, and he made this a big issue. On "Face à face" on CKVL, the

Hon. Member also mentioned that this promise had the blessing of his party and his leader. But now, Mr. Speaker, it is a different story. It must have been a shock to the newly elected Member for La Prairie on Tuesday, when the Minister of State (Transport) (Mr. Bouchard) answered that he had no intention of doing away with the tolls in the near future. I suppose from now on the Hon. Member will perhaps refrain from asking questions in the House without first knowing the answer. Meanwhile, the people in Brossard, La Prairie and on the South Shore are still paying to cross the Champlain Bridge, despite all the promises made by the Member for La Prairie and his party.

I therefore want to ask that tolls on the Champlain Bridge be immediately removed as promised by the Conservative Member for La Prairie and otherwise, that the new Member for La Prairie resign, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

CALL FOR EARLY DEBATE

**Mr. Aurèle Gervais (Timmins-Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, as a new Member of Parliament I rise for the first time today.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gervais:** I had not planned to make a statement today. As a matter of fact it is not a happy occasion for me, due to the nature of the topic. I refer to the nationally tragic incident which happened in my riding last Friday, more particularly in my home town. Of course I refer to the senseless shooting of OPP Officer Vern Miller of the Matheson detachment.

During the weekend I was inundated with calls from constituents in my riding expressing their view that capital punishment should be reintroduced in the House as soon as possible. They mentioned that, through polls and surveys, an overwhelming majority of Canadians wish the capital punishment issue to be brought before the House. On their behalf, and on behalf of all Canadians, the majority of Canadians who wish capital punishment to be reintroduced, I urge the Government to place it on its agenda as soon as possible for debate and a free vote.