

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 16, 1990

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

HOUSING

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the government to act on the disastrous housing shortage in the greater Metro Toronto region.

With high interest rates, the GST, increasing job losses, and an inadequate infrastructure, we are condemning our youth to lives of poverty and fear.

Some politicians in the Toronto area recognize this tremendous need and, in fact, are using the Olympic Games as a lever to gain 5,000 badly-needed houses.

There are other prospects such as the Queensville development where almost 50 per cent of the total 10,000 homes are in the \$150,000 range. Yet, construction cannot begin because the government is lacking the political will to pressure the province to move forward on shelter that is affordable.

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[*Translation*]

THE GREAT HOSPITAL BED RACE OF THE FONDATION DE L'HÔPITAL CHRIST-ROI

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an unusual event organized by members of the Fondation de l'hôpital Christ-Roi, a hospital in my riding.

On May 27, residents will either watch or take part in a big hospital bed race through the streets of Quebec City and Ville Vanier, to raise money to upgrade the hospital's medical equipment.

This is a very important and also very unusual race. The method has been tried before, with great success, in New York, Boston, London and Vancouver.

I would like to emphasize the generosity of our sponsors who have already made a commitment, and the enthusiasm of all racers who are already in training, and finally, on behalf of present and future patients of the Christ-Roi Hospital, I wish to thank the organizers of this "great race".

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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[*English*]

CABLE TELEVISION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have been paying a lot of money for cable television. The viewers who watch the House know that.

The cable industry has been making lots and lots of money. The rate of return on fixed assets is between 24 per cent and 30 per cent—twice as much as the phone companies which are regulated. The cable people are not regulated.

The CRTC, the body that makes the decisions on rates and other matters, yesterday, finally had some good news for consumers. Instead of giving the cable companies a Rolls-Royce this time it just gave them a Buick or a Toyota, and it capped the increases for consumers.

We, in the NDP, believe there is an alternative way. The government in the House of Commons should pass legislation so that the rate of return of cable companies is regulated as are the telephone companies. Cable fees would go down, not up.

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NATIONAL TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, this week is National Tourism Awareness Week in Canada. Knowing how important tourism is to every single riding in the country, I am sure all members will want to join