

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 15, 1983

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

VACANCY

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a communication notifying me that a vacancy has occurred in the representation, namely, Hon. Elmer M. MacKay, Esquire, Member for the electoral district of Central Nova, by resignation. Accordingly I have addressed my warrant to the Chief Electoral Officer for the issue of a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized agency of the U.N., held its fiftieth Council session recently in London, England. Canada was the first country to join the IMO in 1948 and has played an important part in its development over the years. One hundred and twenty-four nations are now members of IMO, and a Canadian, Mr. W. A. O'Neil, President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, is chairman of the governing council.

IMO's main objective is to facilitate co-operation among Governments on technical and related matters affecting shipping, particularly in the promotion of safety of life at sea and the prevention of maritime pollution from ships. This is accomplished by consideration and adoption of international agreements, technical assistance to governments, and an extensive exchange of information between governments.

This year, 1983, is an important one for the organization, as it is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary and can look back proudly on accomplishments which are reflected in the number of international conventions on maritime matters which have entered into force. This past session of Council, which I had the privilege of attending, marked a further milestone when Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the impressive new IMO building on the Thames River in London.

It is with pride that I draw this organization to the attention of the House, both because of the important and vital role Canada has assumed in its development, and in recognition of the number of accomplishments the organization has achieved in making life safer for seafarers and for the prevention of pollution of our oceans.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S POSITION ON DISARMAMENT AND WEAPONS TESTING

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, yesterday the New Democratic Party used an Opposition day to debate the proposed testing of the Cruise missile in Canada. Members of Parliament and the Canadian public were treated to an emotional appeal for non-participation in NATO's military plan. The motion was worded in such a way as to increase the emotional effectiveness of the appeal. It implied that nuclear weapons might, at some future date, be tested in Canada. I cannot think of a more despicable method of debating than the deceitful use of fear, plus child exploitation, in an attempt to score political points.

After the debate on the ambiguous motion, which was handily defeated, the Government introduced its Main and Supplementary Estimates for 1983 and 1984. Any item which was disputed by Members was voted on individually. The remaining Estimates were voted on in toto. The Members of the New Democratic Party voted against the acceptance of the 1983-84 Estimates. The interesting part of this vote was that, included in the Main Estimates, were several allocations for the continuation of disarmament and arms control efforts. It is surprising that the New Democratic Party did not see fit to support these items after all their fine rhetoric of the afternoon. They could have done so by forcing separate consideration of the External Affairs Estimates, Vote 10. One can only assume that the New Democratic Party is more interested in political gain for itself than in the attainment of peace and security for mankind.

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SPORTS

SASKATOON'S EFFORTS TO SECURE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE FRANCHISE

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, hockey fans in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan were heartened yesterday when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) indicated that he