

S. O. 21

Mr. Althouse: Madam Speaker, I have a plane to catch at three o'clock. If I am going to be able to answer it, it will have to be now, and I can be very brief.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It being one o'clock I need unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Riis: They do not want to hear the answer.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[*English*]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
POSITION OF ENGLISH MINORITY IN PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I find it totally and completely objectionable when Premier Bourassa of Québec suggests that Québec Anglophones prefer what he calls social peace to language justice. In effect, what Mr. Bourassa is saying is that if a minority demands justice and the majority resists, then the minority should hold back to pacify the insensitive and inflexible majority.

By that logic South African blacks should peacefully accept apartheid because their demand for justice upsets the white racist Government, or perhaps we in Parliament should back down on Bill C-72 because it upsets some Neanderthal Tories.

The Quebec Superior Court and the Quebec Court of Appeal have unanimously rejected those provisions of Bill 101 which ban English on signs, and Mr. Bourassa himself promised to remove that prohibition. Let Mr. Bourassa act to provide linguistic justice and then he will have social peace in Quebec.

ABORTION
SUPREME COURT DECISION—CALL FOR LEGISLATION TO PROTECT LIFE

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, "Thou shalt not kill" is a universal law adhered to by all societies since the dawn of civilization. In the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision Canada has been left without a law on abortion. However, we now have the opportunity to enact a law which will define life as beginning at conception.

For a long time our religious and moral teachings have been questioned by the scientific community. However, science is now confirming the religious teachings on when life begins. Fred Byfield writes:

When is a life defined? The answer of all genetic science is now unchallenged: It is decided at the instant of conception. The fertilized egg is like a computer chip. The genetic "program" to produce the person is already there.

Our decision on abortion will have an impact on Canada's future. Respect for life is the only choice.

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[*Translation*]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES MENTIONED IN REPORT

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the task force for their report to the effect that public scrutiny is neither a judiciary nor a political process, but a forum which is vital to the future of our environment. Well done!

The task force endorsed the approach advocated by Canadian ecological interest groups, namely public hearings held in informal and flexible proceedings fully consistent with the principles of fairness.

A recommendation that ecological groups be eligible for public financing was approved in the body of the report, but strangely enough it was omitted from the conclusions at the end of the report. It so happens that implementing this recommendation is essential if volunteer groups are to participate fully. If the Government wants active participation and an adequate process it has to provide the funds required.

I urge the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) to begin without delay to implement the measures proposed in this important report.