

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, continuing with some thoughts on the Constitution here are a few questions Canadians are beginning to ask. What is a distinct society? What powers does a province have when it has a distinct society within it? Does a provincial Government's power override a citizen's right under the Charter? If it does, should it?

When you single out one distinct group, what else constitutes a special group? Why lock aboriginal and ethnic communities into their current status rather than improving their status? Why go down this path of separating groups of Canadians? Where does the man or woman who does not speak a word of English or French fit into this new scheme of things?

On spending powers, how is the word "objective" to be interpreted? Who is to establish national objectives? Why is Parliament now left out?

On immigration, what happens to two immigrants to Canada who enter the country under different immigration policies? What happens when they move from province to province? If the words of the Accord were left vague on purpose, why saddle judges with the political job of sorting out what the politicians really meant?

These are questions which Canadians would like to have answered.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S.S.R.—PETITION SEEKING EXIT VISAS FOR VLADIMIR AND MARIA SLEPAK

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, last week I sent the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) a petition signed by 200 people in my riding of Guelph. They urged the Minister to make a personal appeal to Chairman Gorbachev of the Soviet Union for the repatriation to Israel of long-term refuseniks Vladimir and Maria Slepak.

The Slepaks have been trying to exit for 17 years without success. Surely these decent people should be allowed to leave the Soviet Union to be reunited with their children. I appeal to the people of the Soviet Union to join with others around the world and urge the Government of the Soviet Union to allow the repatriation of the Slepaks to Israel.

S. O. 21

ENERGY

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF DOME PETROLEUM BY AMOCO CANADA—PAYMENTS TO DOME OFFICIALS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, three senior executives of Dome Petroleum will receive a total of about \$3 million if and when that company is sold to Amoco. The chairman, whose annual salary is just over \$600,000, will get a lump sum of \$1.5 million U.S. One vice-president, who makes \$247,000 a year, will get a lump sum of \$600,000 on top of the interest-free housing loan of \$225,000 he has received. Another vice-president, who has been paid \$222,000 a year, will get \$600,000.

This is taking place when ordinary workers are getting pay increases even lower than the increase in the cost of living.

It may make sense to reward company leaders when the company they lead is a winner, but this is a company which would have been declared bankrupt if it had not received hundreds of millions of dollars in government subsidies, if it was not carried for years by Canadian banks which will now get only 75 cents on the dollar owed to them although Dome did not even meet its interest payments on its loans, and while hundreds of unsecured creditors to whom millions are owed will get nothing.

Surely there is something wrong with our income tax laws and business morality which permit such unconscionable payments to those officers of Dome who helped bring this corporation to the brink of bankruptcy.

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IMMIGRATION

PROJECTED POPULATION DECLINE—DECISION REQUIRED ON IMMIGRATION LEVELS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, this is a time for tough decisions. Canadians must decide whether we want Quebec in or out of Canada. We must decide whether we should contribute to our own defence or leave it to the Americans and, very soon, we must decide whether Canada's population should increase, decrease, or remain the same as it is now.

In making the population decision Canadians must bear in mind that, if present trends continue, by 1990, less than three years from now, the total number of people dying and leaving Canada will exceed the total number of new births and immigrants.

We must also bear in mind that there are 15 million people in refugee camps around the world, that thousands of Canadians want their families abroad to be allowed to immigrate to this country, and that our aging population means there will be a shrinking number of wage earners to support a growing number of senior citizens.