

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, March 9, 1983

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

SPORTS

ROYAL CANADIAN HENLEY REGATTA

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland): Madam Speaker, the decision made by the executive of the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association to take the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta from St. Catharines created consternation in rowing in Canada and abroad. I understand the decision was made by the executive of CARA alone. Despite the deep significance of such a drastic change in policy and tradition, and its obvious effect on rowing in Canada, it was not allowed to be voted on by the membership of CARA at the annual meeting. The Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation has consistently registered its deep concern, but so far it has not met with any great success.

We of the Welland riding, and of the city of St. Catharines specifically, have no quarrel with the city of Montreal or the sports people who make up the rowing fraternity in that great city. We wish them well in their planning to develop a major rowing regatta for their Olympic course, and I state quite clearly that CHRC stands ready to provide its expertise and work with them in the advancement of rowing in Montreal and in Canada.

The issue here is a simple one. The title to the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta is vested in St. Catharines. No one else has any rights to this title. So, Madam Speaker, at the usual time in the summers of 1983 and 1984, and thereafter, there will be rowed in the city of St. Catharines a regatta known as the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. I believe—

Madam Speaker: Order.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS

CYPRUS—CASE OF MISSING GREEK CYPRIOTS

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, since the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, a member of the Commonwealth, the invaders have consistently refused to provide information on the fate of missing persons as a result of the invasion. Indisputable evidence ascertains that 1,619 Greek Cypriots were detained by the invaders in 1974, and their

whereabouts are unknown to this day. On December 9, 1982, the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution on missing persons in Cyprus calling for a speedy solution to this humanitarian problem. On January 11 of this year the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the problem of missing persons in Cyprus, urging the committee to meet and proceed with all investigations required.

Canada's voice regarding this most tragic circumstance, Madam Speaker, has been conspicuous by its absence in its votes in the United Nations, and by refusing to add its aid to the more than 100 nations around the world in support of equitably resolving the Cypriot problem. This is not a time for fence sitting, it is a time to assert ourselves positively on the side of justice for all the people of Cyprus and their strife-torn country.

* * *

STATUS OF WOMEN

MANDATORY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, mandatory affirmative action is absolutely essential if women are to achieve equality in the work place. As a major employer, the federal Government should be a role model for private employers. Instead, it has failed abysmally. Government pilot projects have no teeth, they are just window dressing. Only 4.8 per cent of management personnel in the Public Service are women. Yet in the low paying service jobs 81.6 per cent are women, many of whom earn under \$10,000 a year. And this is the record of which the Minister responsible for the status of women says she is so proud.

The Government's record on voluntary affirmative action in the private sector is also an abysmal failure. Fewer than 5 per cent of all employers approached agreed to consider affirmative action, and none have actually taken action yet. Last year the Minister talked tough about requiring mandatory affirmative action, and then she backed down. We have obtained confidential information that the Cabinet is currently considering more discussion and consultation only. The recession is no excuse for this reprehensible lack of action. Mandatory affirmative action must be approved immediately so that programs can be implemented over the next few years. Women of Canada demand action now. They are tired of lip service, empty promises, and platitudes. They will not be condemned to low-paying job ghettos forever.