

S. O. 21

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House Resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[*English*]

NATIONAL PARKS

SOUTH MORESBY—FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the issue of South Moresby demonstrates that, when we come right down to it, the provinces place their own objectives above national objectives. So much for the new spirit of co-operative federalism.

The federal Government is perceived as a pushover at the negotiating table. The Premier of British Columbia has proven he wants to exploit the situation to the limit, a form of "environmental hostage taking" as so aptly described by Margaret Atwood today. Where is the "spirit of partnership" the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) proclaimed on May 1? Canada's Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) has called for public support to put pressure on the Premier of British Columbia. I support that call.

In addition, Environment Canada and the Minister should become ardent advocates for the protection of South Moresby and generate the public pressure necessary to bring the Premier of British Columbia to reason. I call upon every Member of this House to help in building up such pressure. South Moresby should not be held for ransom and the Premier of B.C. should not be allowed to make a mockery of the new co-operative federalism proclaimed on May 1 by the Prime Minister.

* * *

[*Translation*]

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

OPPORTUNITY FOR DEBATE

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, our Government wants to limit the debate on the death penalty and hold the vote immediately.

First, we resumed a discussion which many found quite needless. Now, the Government wants to close the debate right away, before the summer adjournment. Where is the logic in this?

The issue with which we are dealing goes beyond the death penalty; it has to do with how we view civilization, with what

kind of society we are. It is therefore important for all parliamentarians to be able to express their views. This is a matter of democracy. Otherwise, Canadians would be quite justified in accusing us of political opportunism.

Either this debate was necessary and should be carried out fully, or else it was frivolous and therefore unwarranted.

[*English*]

It is essential that every Member of this House states his position, if he so wishes. It is a matter of right and democracy. What we need here is the understanding of what freedom of speech means. What we do not need is a closure or a vote hastily called.

* * *

REFUGEES

BILL C-55—ALLEGED VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the Government has been officially accused of proposing to violate international law with Bill C-55 on refugees. In 1948 Canada signed the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights which states in Article 14: "Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy another country's asylum from persecution". This was the first international treaty aimed at protecting the rights of individuals.

As the United Nations High Commission for Refugees wrote to the Minister on June 12, Bill C-55 would violate both that treaty and the U.N. Convention and Protocol for Protection of Refugees which we signed in 1967.

Bill C-55 would violate these laws by, first, screening out applicants because of their country of origin or a so-called "safe" country they pass through, denying them a chance to make an individual claim, second, by refusing rejected claimants the right to have an appeal or review by a central body and, third, worst of all, by sending real refugees back, directly or indirectly, to the country they fled.

I call upon the Government to honour Canada's legal obligations to the United Nations by withdrawing Bill C-55.

* * *

TAX REFORM

WHITE PAPER—PROVISIONS WELCOMED

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I met several hundred constituents in Nepean—Carleton during the weekend. All welcomed those aspects of tax reform which related to agriculture, small business, and high technology which are so fundamental to the economy of that riding.

The reform initiatives were welcomed because they provide stability and incentives which are so important to the business