

S. O. 21

I say quite explicitly that the Hon. Member has offered assurances on other items before. He indicated to the Hon. Member for La Prairie (Mr. Jourdenais) that Motion No. 25 might be withdrawn and so on. These proposals do not impress me very much.

I want to say about these matters and the others that I think there is a very jealous regard for humanity, for the lives and safety of these potential claimants or quite possible refugees. We want to be absolutely certain that nothing will go awry.

May I call it one o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock later this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

IMMIGRATION

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO FORMER B.C. SUPREME COURT
JUDGE CONDEMNED

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the statement attributed to J. V. Clyne in the *Vancouver Sun* of September 19 that he would like to see Canada remain white to safeguard the country's heritage must be vigorously rejected and condemned from the floor of this House. Explicit in that notion is that Canada's interest is best served by the white race. If that were not offensive enough, what is implicit in former Judge Clyne's statement is that one race, white in this case, is superior to others.

As we take pride in the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms adopted in 1982, we know we have an obligation to respect and practise the principles contained in that Charter. What is disturbing about Mr. Clyne's statement is that it comes from a former Supreme Court Judge and Chancellor of the University of British Columbia who should know the spirit, if not the letter, of the Charter.

We do not want in the Canada of today and of our children to be trapped by a distinction between white and non-white Canadians. If the future of Canada is to be a great one, it will be because we will look at ourselves not in racial terms but as a cohesive, varied society drawing strength from diversity and not from domination of one race over another.

MOTOR SAFETY

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT—APPLICATION TO ALL-TERRAIN
VEHICLES URGED

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, in Canada between January, 1982, and September, 1986, there were roughly 2,000 injuries and 109 fatalities resulting from accidents involving off-road vehicles. Many of these accidents involved young Canadians in their early teens. In Saskatchewan last week an unfortunate incident occurred in which a 14-year-old boy died in an accident involving an all-terrain vehicle.

These alarming statistics give rise to the need for federal and provincial legislation dealing with motor vehicle safety policies. It is my understanding that Transport Canada has submitted a proposal to amend the Motor Vehicle Safety Act to include within it legislation dealing with all-terrain vehicles. This proposal is intended to make the use of protective equipment mandatory, and increase public awareness of the dangers involved in using these off-road vehicles on public roads where, incidentally, a high number of accidents occur.

I urge the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) to proceed expeditiously in regard to these matters and to work in concert with regional transport officials, giving priority to the concerns of minimum age requirements and the provision of public awareness programs focusing on driver responsibility and the safe use of off-road vehicles.

* * *

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

PRESENCE OF PCBs IN WATER PUMPS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it has been recently brought to our attention that certain domestic submersible well pumps manufactured between 1964 and 1980 with oil-filtered motors contain dangerous PCBs. The PCBs which have been found in certain pumps' capacitors or cooling oil pose a serious threat to drinking water because of their toxicity and tendency to accumulate in organisms.

Where wells have been abandoned, where pumps have stood idle for long periods of time or where pumps have malfunctioned there exists a serious threat that PCBs will enter the groundwater thereby spreading the threat of contamination.

Considering that many of the pumps containing PCBs are imports, the federal Government should take immediate action to evaluate these imported products and launch an immediate initiative to provide testing of groundwater for PCBs. At the moment in parts of Canada the only way to check for PCBs in groundwater is for an individual to remove his submersible pump, have it destroyed and then examined for PCBs. This is costly and mitigates against people volunteering to have their pumps destroyed in order to be tested. Surely the threat of