

S.O. 21

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TURKISH
GOVERNMENT AND ARMENIAN COMMUNITIES

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, will Members of this House and, through them, the Canadian people, apply their minds today to one of history's tragedies and remember the suffering inflicted on the Armenian people between 1915 and 1918? Over one million men, women, and children were slaughtered in an act of genocide which must take its place with events like the Jewish holocaust and the Ukrainian famine. Some people wish this problem would just go away so that mankind's collective guilt may be lessened, but the Armenian slaughter is an act of history and we cannot wipe the slate clean for the Armenian descendants by pretending it never happened.

Just as we in Canada have on our conscience our treatment of our fellow Japanese Canadians, so the Turkish authorities of the day and their successors, along with the major powers by their sin of omission after World War I, and mankind generally, have the Armenian massacre on their consciences. Justice demands an admission of guilt and then an expression of regret, contrition, and penitence by all concerned. Active steps are then needed to give effect to the resolution passed unanimously by this House on February 25, 1982, that the outstanding differences in problems between the Turkish government and the Armenian communities in Canada and throughout the world be resolved in a peaceful manner. I might also add, in a just manner.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE—HOUSE OF COMMONS RESOLUTION

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, last evening Members of Parliament were guests at a reception hosted by Canada's Armenian community. This reception served a number of purposes. Yesterday, May 28, was the 66th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia, which subsequently fell on December 2, 1920, to the combined invasion of communist and Turkish forces. It provided an opportunity to reflect on the genocide of 1915, when the Turkish government slaughtered 1.5 million Armenians. This was the first genocide of our century, yet, while documented and accepted as fact throughout the international community, it has not been acknowledged by subsequent Turkish governments. Lastly, it enabled us as parliamentarians to pay tribute to the great contributions made to our nation by the more than 50,000 Canadians of Armenian ancestry.

Such occasions as last evening serve to rekindle friendships, and re-emphasize the need for a peaceful resolution of the Armenian question, based on the spirit of the unanimous resolution of this House passed on February 25, 1982.

POOLS

CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION—FIRST WEEK'S
OPERATION

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, no less than four Ministers of Fitness and Amateur Sport have had high-minded but false praise for the Sports Pool. Each Minister spoke of the great benefits the Sports Pool lottery would bring to fitness and amateur sport, the Calgary Olympics, arts and culture, and even medical research. Well, the reality is much different from the rhetoric. Eleven months after the passage of the legislation, following one week of sales, Sports Pool officials report that they do not have the foggiest idea how many tickets were sold, who is selling them, or where they can be purchased. However, they do know that no one won the jackpot.

Canadian taxpayers are on the hook to the Sports Pool to the tune of over \$30 million. For that amount the taxpayers should expect something better than shrugs from Sports Pool officials. The beneficiaries of the Sports Pool were also expecting a good deal more. Instead of seeing cold, hard cash, they are seeing a patronage-ridden common betting operation tainting the image of all associated with it. Friends of the Government may not strike out with the Sports Pool, but it is clearly a wash-out for beneficiaries and taxpayers alike.

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[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

FUTURE OF NORDAIR

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Very shortly the Hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) will have to make a decision concerning the Nordair resale, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the fact that Nordair was born in Quebec, that it has expertise in the air transportation business and that it operates in the Manicouagan riding through the Montreal-Fort Chimo flight, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the Minister of Transport should examine and weigh very carefully the various offers that have been made so far. As a matter of fact, I feel that Innocan has made a most interesting offer for the purchase of Nordair; besides, this firm wants to keep its head office in Montreal and is currently managed by Quebecers; therefore I think that all these historical and economic factors should be closely weighed.

Moreover, I think that in the context of this resale, we should look into a possible merger with Quebecair, or at least an agreement whereby both airlines could work together to the benefit of the people of both Ontario and Quebec, since these two airlines are operating in both provinces.