

S.O. 21

I should add that, as a new Member, the Committee provides me with excellent opportunities to become familiar with the rules of this House. I am quite pleased that the Committee reached a consensus under the able guidance of Hon. James McGrath, and that the reform we advocate has been unanimously endorsed by the three parties in the House.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am particularly proud to belong to a Committee and a Government which historians will describe as having been among the most progressive in the reform of the Canadian House of Commons.

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[English]

STEVE FONYO

ONE-LEGGED RUNNER REACHES BRITISH COLUMBIA BORDER

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, in about two hours from now something special will occur on the Trans-Canada Highway in Yoho National Park at the British Columbia border. There Steve Fonyo, our new Canadian hero, will start the home stretch of his "Journey for Lives". When Steve started his courageous journey in the chilly waters off Newfoundland, probably there were many skeptics. Over a year later, as we watched this courageous, gutsy young man maintain a gruelling pace, despite snow and rain, and in constant pain, we are touched deeply by Steve's dedication to the fight against cancer.

Steve's commitment has already raised over \$4 million for cancer research, public education, and patient services, and more will come. One million dollars has come from the Government of British Columbia. I know that the people of British Columbia will show their generosity as Steve completes the last 1,000 kilometres of his journey.

On Sunday Steve ran 40 kilometres in blizzard conditions, uphill from the Morley Flats to Banff, and he will have tough days ahead through the mountains of British Columbia and the Fraser Canyon. Millions of Canadians show their admiration for Steve's courage and selflessness. He uplifts and inspires us.

Today, Steve, as you start on the last weeks of your journey, let our message reach you across the lakes and the plains and into the hills. Steve, we love you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

ALLEGED DISMISSAL OF BETTY HEWES

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that many Members in the House today remember the old days in Quebec when parish priests would tell their parishion-

ers that Heaven was blue and Hell was red. What a sad era for democracy!

Closer to us in time, we remember one election promise of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to the effect that, under a Progressive Conservative Government, appointments would be made by an impartial committee. Such is not the case, far from it, and incumbents are not even given time to complete their mandate. As it happened, Betty Hewes has been dismissed as Chairperson of the Canadian National Railways' board of directors. She cannot possibly have been fired because of incompetence.

Mrs. Hewes was one of very few Western Canada women to hold such a position. If the Government insists on appointing Conservatives, it should at least replace women by women.

Mr. Speaker, I am flabbergasted to see that the Government has been unable to find a competent woman member of the Progressive Conservative Party to fill this position. It is an insult to the women of that Party, and I hope that my female Government colleagues will tell the Prime Minister, in no uncertain terms, that they disagree with this kind of appointments.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, may I say that Canadians, men and women alike, have just about had it with such partisan appointments and that, when they will vent their anger, the blue Heaven will turn red.

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[English]

STATUS OF WOMEN

INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA—WOMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rhoda Innuksuk, who has been elected President of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. As the first woman leader of the Inuit people she symbolizes the growing participation of northern women in leadership roles in public and political life.

One of Ms. Innuksuk's first priorities is to deal with the very serious social problems of young Inuits who are experiencing the highest rate of drop-outs, crime, suicide, and unemployment. I urge the federal Government to give every assistance to Inuit people so that they may find effective ways to deal with social and health problems which are related to their invasion by southern society which is disrupting the native way of life.

If the young people of the North are to have hope for the future, they must have access to education, training, and jobs which are relevant to their needs and to their communities. Native health problems must be an immediate priority of the federal Government. Lung cancer in Inuit women has increased by 21 times the national average, and youth suicide by six times. Inuit people have little access to medical services and often must leave their families and fly to strange and distant hospitals, even for childbirth. They should have decen-