

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 28, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

WAR CRIMINALS

EXTENSION OF COMMISSION'S MANDATE URGED

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, the Commission on War Crimes has asked the Government for more time to complete its investigative work. Five months ago the Commission referred to its investigative task as a colossal one. It said its success depends on the time and resources allocated to it.

However, the Commission has yet to arrange to travel abroad to gather evidence, be it to the Soviet Union or to any other country where relevant evidence exists.

The guiding consideration may be found in the Commission's decision concerning foreign evidence, where it said that the quality of the Commission's work and the soundness of its conclusions should not be threatened by severe, if not unrealistic time constraints.

What is at stake now is no less than the integrity of the whole effort to bring suspected Nazi war criminals to justice with all deliberate speed. I trust that the Government will extend the Commission's mandate so that justice may be done and the Commission may be able to complete its colossal enterprise.

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CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION CORPORATION

RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM— PROCESSING OF SASKATCHEWAN WOMAN'S APPLICATION

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people were encouraged in high expectations by years of New Democrat Government. Now, Mona Dawson of Rollo, Saskatchewan, has waited since last year to have her indoor plumbing installed in her house for the first time but she is prevented by the delays of the Minister responsible for CMHC.

She applied for a RRAP grant from CMHC in 1985 but there was no more money after the Minister had cut the budget. She applied in 1986 and is still waiting.

It will take two months to get a contractor, two more months for him to do the job, and if she does not get her grant this week the plumbing cannot be installed before freeze-up.

This morning she phoned CMHC, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and her Member of Parliament, but none had any word of the funding which the Minister claimed yesterday was now available for RRAP.

Will the Minister permit Mona Dawson to get her grant this week and have indoor plumbing before winter, or must she wait until 1987?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, today is the sixty-eighth anniversary of the independence of Armenia. Just three years after the genocide in 1915, the surviving Armenians defeated the Turkish army and set up an independent state on May 28, 1918. In 1920 the Treaty of Sevres, signed by Turkey and the Allies, enlarged the independent Armenia to include most of its historical territory. However, the Treaty was never ratified. Armenia was independent until December 2, 1920, when Turkey and the Soviet Union invaded and crushed the infant Republic and shattered the dream of the Armenians to be a freedom loving democracy.

• (1405)

On February 18, 1921, the Armenians revolted against their Communist oppressors. They were successful for 90 days and then their hopes were again crushed.

Today members of the executive of the Armenian National Committee of Canada, including the president, Mr. Khatchig Hagopian, are in Ottawa to mark this important day. I join with my friends in the Armenian community in recognizing Independence Day—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.