

S. O. 21

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

IMMIGRATION

SCHEDULED DEPORTATION ON BASIS OF MARITAL STATUS
INFORMATION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) is planning to deport a 45-year old Filipino seamstress, a landed immigrant named Sally Espineli, for providing incorrect information on her marital status.

However, her employer, the Manitoba Fashion Institute, like many others in the garment industry, regularly recruits and demands that its women workers be single, which in turn forces women to circumvent an employment criterion which clearly violates our Canadian human rights legislation since marital status is a prohibited ground of discrimination.

It is ironic that the Government stalled four months before trying to deport a convicted terrorist, yet it wasted no time in taking action against a single, helpless woman. The Minister should instead suspend deportation and allow the Human Rights Commission to complete its hearing into her case so that our immigration policy will not violate our own federal legislation on human rights and so that the Minister may also ease the unique hurdles facing immigrant women.

The Minister has spoken very passionately a number of times about the plight facing immigrant women. Here is a real human story which cries out for her sensitivity as the Minister of Immigration and as the Minister responsible for the status of women.

This policy discriminates against women. This Minister has a golden opportunity in wearing those two ministerial hats to do something clearly in favour of women, to stop the discrimination, and to stop forcing them to mislead in order to get a job in this country.

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INDUSTRY

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR ONTARIO GRAPE AND WINE INDUSTRIES

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) that, in co-operation with the Province of Ontario, the sum of \$100 million will be provided to improve the competitiveness of the Ontario grape and wine industries.

The program will include assistance for grape removal, quality enhancement, and price support, as well as grape and wine market development. In addition, the federal portion will support the 1988 surplus grape program.

Research will be directed at determining alternate markets for grapes, as well as ensuring quality and productivity for improvements for wine and grapes. Details of the cost-share

program will be worked out over the next few weeks with the province and, most important, with the producers themselves.

I join with my colleagues in the Niagara, Essex, and Kent areas of the province in making this important announcement that will assist the grape and wine industries to compete in terms of quality and price with products from Europe and the United States.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

SALE OF NORTHWESTEL TO BELL CANADA

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I wish to register deep concern about the recent sale of NorthwesTel to Bell Canada.

There has been no guarantee that the 400 jobs will stay in the Yukon. Such a condition should have been a condition of sale. Yukoners do not deserve the vague promises that have been made by Bell Canada in this regard. We need firm commitments.

We also question whether or not our telephone rates will be increased. Bell Canada rates in Ontario for basic residential services are 63 per cent higher than those rates currently in the Yukon and northern British Columbia.

It is also disturbing that Bell Canada had to pay \$200 million for NorthwesTel but cannot find the will or the dollars to settle with its striking Ontario employees who have been on strike for over two months. We wonder if this kind of management style will soon be seen in the Yukon. NorthwesTel has not had a strike in at least 10 years.

The Government could have facilitated the sale of NorthwesTel to northerners. Instead, this Yukon company will receive its marching orders from Montreal. Unfortunately, it appears that the privatization plans of the Government take precedence over any desire for northern participation.

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SENIOR CITIZENS

OPENING OF SENIORS VILLAGE IN ALBERTA

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, Alberta has another first, thanks to La Vida Communities Incorporated, a privately based company located in Calgary.

Last weekend I attended the official opening of the club house of a seniors village called Woodside on the Green. This unique project is designed to meet the special lifestyle needs of senior citizens over the age of 55. In addition to providing beautiful single-family homes it contains an array of convenience and safety features. It is beside the Bethany Care Centre.