

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, March 18, 1992

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

SOUTH AFRICA

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, we are all most grateful for the positive yes response to yesterday's referendum question in South Africa.

The majority yes response encourages people worldwide to continue to believe in the generous and just nature of humanity which so often is buried in the negative.

Yesterday's white South Africans voted overwhelmingly to support the end of apartheid. Seventy per cent of South Africa's 3 million white minority have given Mr. de Klerk the mandate to proceed with the CODESA reforms on behalf of all South Africans including 30 million black South Africans.

We look forward to a rapid negotiation of a new constitution enfranchising all citizens. We look forward to a speedy implementation of an interim government which will include blacks for the first time.

Most of all, we look forward to the achievement of these goals which will bring South Africa back as a full participant in the community of nations, sanctions lifted and freedom and prosperity for all, as the new goals for an international community.

ALBERTA CHAMPIONS

Mr. Willie Littlechild (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, once again the province of champions does it. I ask this House to congratulate three new champions.

The ladies Canada West Ringette team from Alberta won the world's ringette championship in Helsinki, Finland.

During the same week, the Wetaskiwin Relics won the COHA international hockey tournament in Las Vegas for the second time, having previously won the world cup division in San Diego.

Of course, the whole nation watched the University of Alberta Golden Bears as they captured their eighth Canadian intercollegiate athletic union hockey championship in Toronto on Sunday.

The Golden Bears exemplify the winning tradition of the University of Alberta and all three teams exemplify the true ideals of excellence. As the Golden Bears say: "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit".

Congratulations to all three teams and continued success.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, all over the world men and women who love freedom will rejoice at the result of the referendum in South Africa yesterday.

State President F. W. de Klerk, his Nationalist Party and his allies in the Democratic Party have achieved a result that gives him a free hand to continue the nation building work that he and the majority of other political parties in South Africa have been engaged in for the last several months.

Canadians have urged this course of action on South Africa for many years as have countless other countries around the globe. Freedom is the only solution to lasting peace in South Africa. The CODESA talks represent a significant movement toward freedom for all of South Africa's races and an opportunity for the state president