

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, December 12, 1990

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

NATIVE LAND CLAIMS

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, our system holds that justice delayed is justice denied.

Justice is being denied to native Canadians who have filed some 580 specific claims with the federal government. In Ontario alone, there are currently 94 outstanding specific land claims. Since 1985, only four Ontario claims have been fully processed.

The Six Nations of the Grand River Indians in my riding of Haldimand—Norfolk currently have 17 specific claims in the system. They are experiencing in excess of a seven-year waiting period in having each claim addressed.

This government's native claims policy is a failure. It operates contrary to the needs of all parties involved. The people of the Six Nations have waited long enough. Some of their claims are well over 100 years old.

I call upon the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to make a serious attempt to settle these land claims, and I call upon this government to summon the political will necessary to address these land claims with justice and with efficiency.

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[*Translation*]

VIETNAM

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of informing the House that for the

first time in 45 years, a senior member of the Communist Vietnamese government has called for a new, democratically elected National Assembly and a government of national reconstruction, headed by people who are capable, people of integrity. The Vietnamese government in exile is represented here today by Hoang Viet Cuong, president of the coalition of democratic Vietnamese political parties for the liberation of their country. Canada should be proud it is able to participate in the emancipation of a country that, like countries in eastern Europe, will at last be able to look forward to democratic renewal and the liberation of its people from oppression.

Speaking on behalf of all Canadians, we hope that our friends will succeed in their mission and that, with their members and the other political parties in Vietnam, we shall see this democratic election materialize.

Mr. Speaker, speaking on my own behalf, I wish Hoang Viet Cuong the very best and I hope a democratic election will be called as soon as possible for a free and independent Vietnam, so that all Vietnamese refugees throughout the world will finally be able to go back to a free country. We, in Canada, will be proud to have been able to contribute to the emancipation of a people.

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[*English*]

HEALTH CARE

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, members of this House know that medicare is under attack.

In this latest report issued yesterday, the National Council on Welfare asks—it almost begs—that the federal government strengthen the presence and financial support for medicare. Instead, the federal contribution is now below 40 per cent, and will continue to drop further as the Wilson budgets take hold.