

S. O. 31

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[Translation]

QUEBEC REFERENDUM

Mr. Ted McWhinney (Vancouver Quadra, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as a former special constitutional adviser to several Quebec premiers, I can understand the wish for a flexible federalism that would readily and effectively meet the particular needs of every region of Canada.

My constituents in British Columbia make the same constitutional claims. Consequently, let us build together a new pluralistic and co-operative federalism for the 21st century. Vote no in the referendum.

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[English]

JUSTICE

Mrs. Sharon Hayes (Port Moody—Coquitlam, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, on Thanksgiving Sunday in Coquitlam a grandfather, grandmother and their daughter were brutally murdered at the hands of the common law husband. This heinous crime once again illustrates the impotence of court orders in the justice system and the tragedy of marital and family breakdown.

Three white coffins stood in the very church that was the centre of this family's life and the tragic place of their death. I joined the community of Maillardville there last week and shared their pain.

It is for the sake of such communities that we in this place must find those measures that will strengthen and safeguard crucial family bonds in our society. We must work together to promote and implement measures in our justice and legal systems that make peace, not war, in the difficult separation of family structures. We must recognize that government policy does influence choice, attitude, and action, and seek out the root causes of the distemper of our times.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to the grieving family and to the community. My thoughts and my prayers are with them.

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AIRPORTS

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the federal Liberal government is proceeding with the former Conservative government's plan to privatize the operations of local airports.

This week the president of the Saskatchewan Aviation Council reminded us of the continued importance of these airports

and said that the key to the financial survival of small airports in these new circumstances is the ability to attract business to the affected communities. He accurately points out that there is little communities can do about the costs of running the airports, so they must find ways to raise new operating money. That generally means that the airports need to bring in more users.

The irony of the situation is that if new money cannot be found the increased costs of operating the airports will have to be passed on to the current airport users, resulting in less, not more, use of the airports.

With this in mind, I urge the government to provide the resources and support systems necessary to ensure that municipal governments can successfully make it through this critical transition period.

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CANADIAN UNITY

Mr. Rey D. Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have always formed a united front to face common challenges. Once more we are challenged to work together to confront the issues of our time: jobs, economic growth, safety, good government and unity. Together we shall prevail.

Together we tilled the countryside and built cities, went to war to win peace and kept peace to prevent war. We made breakthroughs in science and pioneered technologies for all citizens. We created medicare so that all Canadians, rich or poor, have equal access to top notch health care.

I know that Quebecers and their fellow Canadians take pride in the work we have done together to make Canada what it is today: the number one nation in the world in which to live. May this pride bring victory on October 30 to a Canada united in purpose and committed to a renewed federalism that ensures we reach our full potential in the 21st century.

Long live Canada!

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CANADIAN UNITY

Mr. Gary Pillitteri (Niagara Falls, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks many concerned Canadians in my riding of Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake have been talking about the forthcoming referendum in Quebec and what it may mean for the future of our nation. Emotions are high and opinions have ranged from indignation to disbelief and even ambivalence. Many letters written from the heart call for Quebec to remain in Canada as a fundamental part of the Canadian family.

Yesterday a group of students from Niagara College wrote to the citizens of Quebec expressing their deeply held belief that it is the uniqueness of the people of Quebec that has helped Canada to become the greatest country in the world.