

S.O. 21

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION ACT

SPEEDY PASSAGE URGED BY PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South-Weston): Madam Speaker, *The Toronto Star* reports that the President of the Canadian Labour Congress has now added his voice to those of the growing number of people who are asking for speedy passage of Bill C-155, the Western Grain Transportation Act. Mr. McDermott is reported as having asked his allies in the NDP to end their attempts to delay the legislation, and as urging all Parties to get on with the job of enabling improvements to the Canadian rail system in a way that protects the interests of producers. This is exactly what Bill C-155 seeks to accomplish.

The Bill has now received extensive debate. At second reading, 97 speakers participated in the debate. The Standing Committee on Transport sat for 31 days, travelled across the country, heard 240 witnesses, and made 89 amendments which improved the Bill considerably.

Nine days have now been spent on the Bill at report stage during which time further amendments have been accepted, including a proposal by members of the NDP to add a representative of labour to the Senior Grain Transportation Committee.

The task of improving Canada's railway system must proceed. More important, Madam Speaker, this legislation will create thousands of badly needed jobs across the country. I therefore join Mr. McDermott and the Canadian Labour Congress in urging the Opposition to allow this Bill to proceed quickly so that many unemployed people can be put back to work.

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ABORTION

ANNOUNCED REOPENING OF TORONTO CLINIC

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, a Toronto newspaper story reads in part: "Dr. Henry Morgentaler will defy the law and reopen his Toronto abortion clinic—". I can see nothing noble about this man breaking and defying the laws of Canada. Abortions to protect the life of the mother are legal today, but Dr. Morgentaler wants abortion on demand. He wants abortion to be a birth control measure, and he thinks freedom of choice should be extended to allow for the murder of another human being—yes, even an unborn child.

World famous scientists like Professor A. W. Liley of Auckland, New Zealand, confirm that what is in the womb is "a person, a full human being that can cry, hiccup, dream, kick, suck a thumb, take 'food', regulate fluid volume, have heart beats and fingerprints—a totally separate individual who

stops his mother's periods and who decides when labour should begin".

Murder is murder, whether it occurs before birth or after birth. If we permit unborn and so-called unwanted babies to be killed, the next step may be to permit the killing of the crippled, the abnormal, and the aged. Freedom of choice was never meant to include the freedom to murder. Dr. Morgentaler has a responsibility to obey the laws of Canada just the same as do the rest of us.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

REFUSAL OF OLD AGE PENSION ON BASIS OF RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Madam Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House the plight of Mr. Doug Wright, a Canadian born war veteran who cannot draw old age pension because he is 55 days short of the 20 years of required residency in Canada after age 18. At age 27 Mr. Wright joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was posted overseas with the 401 Squadron. He was given a Spitfire, and for two years he saw active service.

Mr. Wright was shot down off the English coast in 1943. His right leg was crushed and he spent a year in British hospitals undergoing bone transplants to save the leg. His kneecap was removed. He then returned to his job in Canada. However, his leg could not function in the cold. He tried to start a new business, and his wife worked to supplement their income.

Finally, a Department of Veterans Affairs doctor told Mr. Wright that he could expect constant pain unless he moved to a warmer climate. He and his wife moved to California, and they returned to Canada annually from 1952 until 1979 to visit Mr. Wright's mother. Canada was their home. It was because of the war wounds Mr. Wright received fighting for Canada that they had to move. It was a painful experience for the Wrights to move away from family, jobs, and friends.

Can we not find 55 days for Mr. Wright? He should at least expect and receive an ex gratia payment to cover this amount from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

NICARAGUA—ATTACKS ON JEWISH POPULATION

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, this year is the thirty-fifth year since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and I think it bears stressing that a Mulroney Government would make human rights an important part of its foreign policy. I believe that most Canadians reject the view that rights in some parts of the world are more important than those in others. I say to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) that what happens to a nun in the Philippines,