

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, December 20, 1989

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

PANAMA

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have been very disturbed by the dictatorship of General Noriega and his continued refusal to acknowledge the results of the democratic elections that were held this past May. Our party has supported any international efforts toward a peaceful transition for Noriega for the rightful government.

Nonetheless, as Canadians we cannot accept the use of force by an outside party to change circumstances internal to a country. Canada is a signatory to the United Nations and as such we have always embraced the United Nations charter that explicitly prohibits the use of military force by one state against another.

To defend Canada's support for the U.S. invasion of Panama, the government has argued that in this particular case the lives of American citizens are at stake. We must remember, however, that a large US military presence already existed in Panama which could arguably have handled the situation without an outright military onslaught.

At both emergency sessions of the Security Council and of the OAS, I call on the government to state categorically that it cannot and will not support any violation of the principle of non-intervention which would include military invasion of Panama by the United States.

[*Translation*]

THE WORLD FREE-STYLE SKI CUP

Mr. Jacques Vien (Laurentides): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that the beautiful riding of Laurentides will once again host an international event.

World Cup free-style skiing will take place at Mont Gabriel, in the municipality of Mont-Rolland, on January 5, 6 and 7, 1990, and will include three sections: ballet, moguls and jumps. Athletes from more than 20 countries will compete in a very high calibre event, during which the talents and skills of competitors will be stretched to the utmost.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, free-style skiing is attracting an increasingly large following, both in Canada and abroad. It is a very demanding sport that requires steady nerves, daring, flexibility, agility and determination.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation for the work of our volunteers and wish the athletes the very best during this competition.

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[*English*]

THE SENATE

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal senators are at it again. They are attempting to delay Bill C-21, the unemployment insurance bill which this House passed six weeks ago.

They are doing it for purely partisan reasons. They are the same people, the same group of hacks, that refused to back Bill C-103. Remember that one, Mr. Speaker, the ACOA act back a couple of years ago? They nearly succeeded in killing that one, but they are not going to succeed on this one. Clearly, the Liberal senators care little for the men and women—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is making a point. However, I have to point out that it is not appropriate in this place to cast aspersions on the other place, and