

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 17, 1987

The House met at 2 p.m.

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*Prayers*

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## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[*English*]

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### PLIGHT OF GROUP OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND VETERANS

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, over the last several years I have had many inquiries from veterans denied War Veterans Allowance because of a technicality. When the definition of "theatre of war" was extended in 1981 to include persons who had been transported by ship or aircraft beyond Canada's three-mile territorial water limit while on duty, those veterans of Canada's forces who had crossed the Northumberland Strait became eligible.

However, one class of veterans was left out. These veterans, after preliminary documentation in Charlottetown, had received government warrants to travel from P.E.I. to the mainland. However, years later, when they applied for War Veterans Allowance benefits, they were told they were not considered forces because they had not been attested, or sworn in, in Halifax. But these men had in fact crossed the Strait on orders of the Department of National Defence. They were no longer civilians.

For years, I have written letters and made representations on their behalf.

● (1405)

One veteran, Mr. Douglas Maclaren, did not take no for an answer. He took his case to court. I am indeed pleased to learn that yesterday the Federal Court ruled in his favour.

I hope the Department of Veterans Affairs will now act quickly to give those veterans the benefits which should have never been denied in the first place.

[*Translation*]

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

#### TELEVISIONING OF QUEBEC GAMES FINALE IN VAL-D'OR

**Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, for the past few years the CBC has had to cope with even stricter financial restraints, and programming choices are increasingly more difficult to make.

Quebec Games President Claude Poirier-Defoy heard that the broadcast of the Quebec Games finale, to be held from August 7 to August 16 this summer, was definitely not a sure thing.

I immediately got in touch with the CBC and, with the support of the Val-d'Or organizing committee and the President of the Quebec Games, we made strong representations to CBC Vice-President Franklin Delaney so that 4,000 young Quebec athletes might be able to perform before the viewers in the Province of Quebec and before their friends and relatives.

It was in a difficult context that the CBC reconsidered its decision and, following this new examination, President Pierre Juneau assured me on June 11, 1987 that the French network will telecast the 1987 edition of the Quebec Games finale in Val-d'Or.

I can only commend the CBC team, and I thank Mr. Pierre Juneau.

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[*English*]

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

#### OPPOSITION TO REINSTATEMENT

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, today the national leaders of the youth wings of Canada's three major political Parties issued an unprecedented joint statement urging Canada's Parliament to vote against the reinstatement of the death penalty. In part they said:

We are young Canadians, active in the political process, who have come together to express our opposition to the reinstatement of the death penalty. Although we differ on many issues, there are those, crossing all party lines, in which there is clearly a right path and a wrong path to take. While we do not claim to speak for all those we represent in our respective party organizations, nonetheless, we are allowed, as you are, freedom of conscience and expression as individuals. We agree with the Leaders of our Parties that the death penalty has no place in the Canadian system of justice.