

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, January 29, 1990

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. 0. 31

[*English*]

ABORTION

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the second anniversary of the Supreme Court striking down the abortion law. The Supreme Court ruled that Canada's abortion law was unconstitutional.

Today we find ourselves with another unjust abortion law before us. I urge members to vote down this unfair law. Let us not wait for the Supreme Court to do it later, after much pain and publicity to the women who will be dragged before the courts. Let us not deal with unwanted pregnancy by threatening doctors with jail.

Over the past two years women and doctors have shown themselves responsible for making moral and medical decisions. We are entering the third year without an abortion law, showing clearly that we do not need one. What we need instead is family planning education and progressive social programs to support pregnant women and families. On this second anniversary let us all make a commitment to uphold women's right to decide for ourselves what we will do with our own bodies and our lives.

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SPORTS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all of Canada to indicate our support for our athletes in Auckland.

I particularly want to congratulate Curtis Hibbert of Mississauga of our gymnastics team who has won five gold medals, a silver medal and a bronze medal. We have a tremendous team in New Zealand. These young men and women qualified after rigorous hours of training and dedication. Our athletes are participating in virtually every sport. We have won medals, and the winners are to be congratulated. As of yesterday, we had 58 medals and were running second in the games.

For those who have not yet won a medal, we hope they will win some. For those who do not make to the podium, they are still winners as far as we are concerned, and they are to be congratulated.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

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EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, it is with great interest that I listened to the President of the Treasury Board in the House last Friday make his surprising announcement of equal pay adjustments. I welcomed the news that discrimination in the federal public service would soon come to an end. I have always fought against such discrimination which has been aimed primarily against women. The government is finally moving toward the principle of equal pay for work of equal value after five years of study.

[*Translation*]

I am proud to say that many of my constituents in Carleton—Gloucester are federal public servants, and I intend to make sure that the adjustment is carried out expeditiously.

[*English*]

The Treasury Board decision is just one small step toward a complete end to discrimination in the workplace. I urge the government to demonstrate leadership by acting quickly to ensure that all Canadians work in an environment of fairness and equity.