

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

PAYMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK PREMIER'S LEGAL COSTS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, it recently came to public attention that the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick paid \$123,628 in legal fees for the defence of a Mr. Richard Hatfield against a charge of possession of marijuana.

The charge was laid by the RCMP in respect to Mr. Hatfield's standing as a private citizen and was not influenced by or initiated on account of his position or political office.

I request that the office of the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. MacKay) begin an immediate investigation into a legality of the use of funds solicited for political use in the legal defence against a charge of possession of marijuana.

I also request a ruling on whether anyone in receipt of such a benefit is required to pay income tax on what is clearly a taxable benefit.

Donations to political Parties are made by Canadians to ensure the continuation of Canada's democratic institutions. Is it correct that an individual's legal defence should be paid from such funds? I await the findings of the Minister of National Revenue.

* * *

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

YUKON LEGISLATURE'S VOTE AGAINST CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, last week the Yukon Legislature voted to oppose Cruise missile testing and increased military activity in the north. This was a free vote on a private Member's motion, and the Government Leader clearly urged all Members to follow their consciences. The Liberals, symbolically, split on this issue.

The Government should note that people who have to live with the Cruise missile hanging over their heads are not too happy about it. They frankly do not like Canada's contribution to the nuclear arms race. They are concerned for their safety when the Cruise missile crashes in two consecutive tests, and they do not want their backyards turned into playgrounds for the Pentagon.

While defence planners tend to look upon our North as a big empty space, just perfect for military exercises, northerners

S.O. 21

have a much different vision of their homeland. It is time that we took notice of that vision and consulted them before subjecting their homeland to low-level flights by Cruise missiles, NATO fighters, or B-52s. The Government should first assess the impact of this activity on northerners' lives and homes, and ask them if they approve.

* * *

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIES

Mr. André Plourde (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup): Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House to denounce the incompetence of the President of the CBC, Pierre Juneau and his colleague, Louis O'Neil. Last week, a great deal of publicity accompanied an announcement that cut backs would be made in regional programming at Matane, Rimouski, Sept-Îles and Chicoutimi, communities that are bound to suffer since the situation for the communications media is already far from ideal.

Mr. Juneau and Mr. O'Neil have opted for the easy way out by hitting those who cannot strike back. Why not seek out areas where money is really being wasted, and I am thinking of the duplication of responsibilities and the top-heavy administrative machine we find at the headquarters of this superstructure in Montreal?

The CBC will have to cut its expenditures, I agree, but I cannot tolerate this being done by depriving the Lower Saint Lawrence, the Gaspé and the North Shore of services that constitute an indispensable part of the economy of these regions.

* * *

[English]

PORNOGRAPHY

DISTRIBUTION OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL BY MAIL

Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga North): Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my constituents in Mississauga North who are increasingly concerned about the widespread and growing distribution of pornographic materials.

The number of complaints to my office concerning pornography has risen dramatically. This is not surprising in view of the fact that recently many of my constituents received in their mail a flashy looking envelope advertising an "exclusive video offer" addressed to "mature viewers only".

It may be unparliamentary to describe further the contents of this exclusive video offer, but you can be assured, Mr.