

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, January 30, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING CERTAIN PRACTICES

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montréal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, in an article written today in *Le Devoir* and signed by Michel Vastel, we read this statement:

According to experts involved in the Bissonnette and Stevens affairs, the Tories have turned patronage into a system.

Mr. Speaker, every Canadian man and woman who will be reading that article today, and I invite them to do so, will discover not just this rampant patronage situation but also the degree of corruption in which the government is wallowing.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to comments made by business leaders and businessmen to reporter Michel Vastel of *Le Devoir*, I can confirm that in my riding I have business leaders who have told me just as much.

Mr. Speaker, there are honest Members. I invite all Conservative, Liberal and New Democrat MPs to urge the Prime Minister of Canada to put a stop to that dishonest and hateful practice here on Parliament Hill, in Ottawa.

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SPORTS

IMPORTANCE OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PRIVATE SECTOR AND DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the 1987 world speed-skating championships for men and women will be held in my riding at the Gaétan Boucher rink in Sainte-Foy.

Yesterday, I was able to meet with athletes from the seventeen countries represented at the championships. I also met the famous Gaétan Boucher from Sainte-Foy.

This event will be televised worldwide and give millions of people a look at Quebec and Canada. This should have a major impact on tourism.

In conclusion, I also wish to mention the important contribution of the private sector towards financing these championships. Here we see once again the vital co-operation between the private sector and the various levels of government which makes such events a success.

I also wish all the athletes good luck and a pleasant stay here in Canada.

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● (1105)

[English]

ABORTION

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women has advised the Government that access to abortion services in Canada has deteriorated to the point of crisis.

The lack of abortion services in Canada is becoming one of the major issues affecting women's lives. In 1984, of the 244 hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees, 18 per cent did not perform abortions while another 24 per cent performed very few.

Women of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland have no access to abortion services in their provinces. In Alberta women must travel long distances and pay large sums of money in order to obtain a service to which they are entitled under our law. The burden falls most heavily on rural and low-income women.

In British Columbia the situation has become highly charged because of a Premier who is intent on imposing his personal views against abortion on British Columbia women, despite our present law.

I urge the Government to heed the three advisory council recommendations: that abortion is a medical procedure that need not be performed in a hospital; that federal and provincial Ministers of Health should approve publicly funded, free standing, reproductive health clinics; and that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code.