

S. O. 21

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[Translation]

THE LATE JEAN MARCHAND

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): We were sorry and saddened to learn yesterday of the death of Jean Marchand, a committed trade unionist and the most passionate of the "three wise men", a great Liberal.

Allow me, to quote an excerpt from the tribute to him by Alain Leduc in this morning's *La Presse*.

With Jean Marchand's death, we have lost one of the men who shaped modern Quebec, one of the architects of the Quiet Revolution, without which we would not be what we are today.

But Jean Marchand's major contribution is still little known by more than half of Quebecers.

Since they only know of the federal Minister and then Senator, they do not appreciate the debt they owe someone like Jean Marchand.

As president of the CNTU, he was also a pioneer of the Quiet Revolution and a partner in its reforms, from the creation of the Department of Education to the unionization of public servants.

He showed the same energy and the same passion when he moved to the federal arena in 1965. He fought for a strong Canada and the defence of bilingualism in Canada and, as Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, against regional inequalities.

But it would do an injustice to Mr. Marchand's memory not to mention the sometimes strong reactions he aroused. His conflicts matched his image of a combative, fiery, emotional man, not a politician ready to make concessions to please. Mr. Marchand was a courageous militant, ready to fight for his convictions, even if they went against conventional wisdom.

There are few Quebecers whom one can call without exaggeration the Fathers of modern Quebec. There are barely a handful, and Jean Marchand is one of them. And that is why we owe this pioneer our respect and our gratitude.

So to this passionate wise man and great Liberal, I say thanks!

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[English]

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

PRESENCE OF PCBs IN HYDRO TRANSFORMERS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, last Saturday a truck knocked over a hydro pole in Toronto causing PCB-laced oil to spill from a hydro transformer. Hydro officials said there was no need for alarm because the PCB levels in transformers are low and the oil coolant is pretty well safe.

There are two transformers on the hydro pole across the street from my own home. No doubt, they contain PCBs as well. Although PCBs have been banned in Canada for the past 11 years, there are still lots of them around in hydro transformers.

The National Research Council and Atomic Energy of Canada now say they know how to get rid of PCBs. I trust that

even though the PCB levels in hydro transformers are low, we will get rid of them as well.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

CFPR PRINCE RUPERT—PLANNED STAFF REDUCTION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, the statutory mandate of CBC requires that service be extended to all parts of Canada as public funds become available. The Conservative Government has hacked and slashed CBC's budget, making extensions of service impossible. CBC proposed a plan to the CRTC earlier this year which included the reduction of staff at Prince Rupert from 14 to two persons to allow extensions of service elsewhere in British Columbia. This plan was turned down.

On November 12, 1987, Pierre Juneau and again before the CRTC Michael McEwan, vice-president of CBC, stated that the plan was all or nothing. CBC now plans to reduce Prince Rupert to four staff and sell the assets anyway.

On December 2, 1987, Pierre Juneau, President of CBC, wrote to me stating that there was an undertaking with Treasury Board that "in the period of cuts to capital and operating funds, there would be no extensions of service", and that any funds would be for maintaining existing locations. The Standing Committee of the House concluded that storefronting should not be done at the expense of the existing stations such as CFPR.

The Minister has three choices, first, put forward the necessary funds for service extensions in Victoria, Kelowna, Kamloops and Prince George, while fully maintaining CFPR; second, fire Pierre Juneau and Michael McEwan for lying or, three, resign herself for failing to uphold her statutory mandate and Treasury Board undertakings.

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YOUTH

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HOSTELLING

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, last weekend it was my pleasure to represent the Minister responsible for Youth (Mr. Charest) at the thirty-seventh International Conference on Hostelling which was held at the University of Calgary. Present were 240 delegates from 60 countries and this was the first time in 80 years of hostelling that the conference was held in Canada.

It was a fitting area for the conference because Canadian hostelling was commenced in 1933 at Bragg Creek, Alberta, by two dynamic ladies who erected a tent and charged a 25 cents overnight fee. It was the first hostel in North America.