

have as universal a coverage as possible. As hon. members know, the legislation proposes covering all employees except the self-employed, with the exception of a very small group that will be exempted mainly because their earnings are either too casual or too intermittent in nature.

Our committee heard groups such as the Canadian School Trustees Association, the Canadian Airline Pilots Association, the International Association of Firefighters, the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Teachers Federation, the Public Service Alliance of Canada and the Professional Institute of the Public Service in Canada, which represented a great many of the 1,200,000 new employees to be insured for the first time. The briefs from these associations, on universal coverage, varied from that of the Canadian Teachers Federation, which was against it, to the Canadian Nurses Association which favoured the concept.

I think many of us have always thought that nurses had one of the most secure professions in the world, that they could move anywhere and easily pick up a job because of the high demand for their services. I believe our committee members were astounded to hear that nurses were unemployed in some parts of the country, particularly in some of our cities. So they saw the proposal to give nurses unemployment insurance coverage as being of real benefit to the 50,000 nurses in Canada.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

VETERANS AFFAIRS—SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE OF HALIFAX SAILORS' MONUMENT BY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, earlier today I asked the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Dubé) a question concerning the sailors' monument which looks out over the Atlantic from the south end of Halifax. This monument was built a few years ago by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in co-operation with the Royal Canadian Naval Association. It had previously reposed on Citadel Hill, but because the hill was shifting and they could not get a firm foundation, it had to be taken down to more level land. For some years the Royal Canadian Naval Association has paid the light bill to keep the monument lighted. Now the association has indicated it can no longer pay this bill which I think is in the amount of approximately \$1,500 a year.

On February 22 I asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) or his parliamentary secretary, on the "late

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show"—this mystic hour to which all Ottawa flocks—whether the Department of Transport could use the light on this memorial as a beacon which would be of help to shipping. I must report that the department was kind enough to check out the request. Unfortunately, it decided that the light could not fill the purpose of a beacon. So now I try again, with the Department of Veterans Affairs to keep this memorial light alive.

The minister gave his answer earlier today. Since he and I are very civilized people, I will not quarrel with the answer he gave and will not even try to repeat it, because he will give it in a few minutes and we will have it on record, but more amplified than the answer he gave in the question period. I have to accept his answer in good faith, because I put to him a question some weeks ago and he and his department were good enough to look into it and to give a serious response. But I am left with the fact that there is no answer regarding keeping this memorial light going.

It is a fact that 24 naval vessels were lost in the various battles of the Second World War in which Canada and the Royal Canadian Navy engaged—these battles being primarily in the Atlantic, some in the Mediterranean and one at least in the Pacific—and that 1,981 members of the Royal Canadian Navy lost their lives in these battles. I presume that most of them lost their lives in the Atlantic. For those facts I used as a source the Encyclopedia Canadiana, at page 380.

● (10:00 p.m.)

To put my request in a final sentence, Mr. Speaker, if the minister indicates that the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot take this on as a national monument—my argument has been that for the 1,981 men who lost their lives in the Atlantic Ocean, this memorial at the south end of Halifax is in fact their gravestone—and undertake its perpetual lighting, I shall turn to the Department of National Defence and finally to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development because of the historic site connotation; and if these three steps fail I will turn toward setting up some kind of private trust.

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I said this afternoon in reply to the question put by the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave), I can well understand the interest which he has in this monument. I believe that the Halifax memorial is a very impressive one and I know it means much to many people in the Halifax area and elsewhere. This monument was erected jointly by the government of Canada and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1967. The land for the monument was provided by the Point Pleasant Park Commission and the monument was built near the site upon which the original memorial was erected following the First World War.

The floodlighting of the memorial was arranged by the Royal Canadian Naval Association in conjunction with the Point Pleasant Park Commission. At that time, in 1967, it was pointed out to the association that it was not within the authority of the Commonwealth War Graves