

S. O. 31

Mr. Speaker: Wait a minute. We have a past Speaker's ruling that statements by members are not to be used to make a personal attack on another member. I am sure the hon. member would understand that and perhaps revise his comments and use them at another time.

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PEACEKEEPING

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, I want to refer to Canada's commitment to peacekeeping.

Over the years Canada has dedicated itself to the principle of resolving disputes peacefully. Through the process of mediation and compromise Canada has repeatedly avoided armed conflict, not only between our country and others, but also between foreign nations.

More than 91,000 Canadians have served in peacekeeping missions since our first initiative during the India-Pakistan war in 1948. Today, with a population which represents a mere one-half of one per cent of the world's total population, Canada provides 10 per cent of the world's peacekeepers.

In the former Yugoslavia 19 Canadian peacekeepers have been injured and one has been killed. These numbers represent the sacrifices made by others over the last 50 years in the process of keeping the peace.

Nations around the world respect the example Canada has set for the peaceful resolution of disputes. Through their dedication to the ideals of peace and diplomacy, Canadian peacekeepers have brought integrity and honour to themselves, to our country and to the cause of peaceful international relations.

On behalf of all Canadians, I salute them.

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[Translation]

CYPRUS

Hon. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, Canada, through its government, will very soon announce its decision on whether or not it is renewing its commitment to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus.

Everyone recognizes the wonderful work done by our service people in the Canadian Armed Forces and I wish to thank the Chief of the Armed Forces, General de Chastelain, most sincerely and ask him kindly to pass these thanks on to his troops.

The troubling thing in this affair is that Canada may now end its participation after 28 years in Cyprus.

• (1410)

Why leave to other countries this obligation that all Canadians support with pride, especially at a time when very important developments are expected next March?

I wonder why they would announce ending our commitments there. Canada should instead renew its efforts with Turkey so that the Turkish authorities withdraw their tens of thousands of soldiers who occupy 40 per cent of the island of Cyprus and the Cypriot authorities negotiate the future status of Cyprus in good faith and understand that in the new world order that is mentioned so often, all United Nations Security Council resolutions must be respected.

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[English]

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine): Mr. Speaker, Thursday, December 10 marks International Human Rights Day.

Some 10 or 12 years ago, the House of Commons set up a special committee to examine the status of disabled persons in Canada. That committee produced *Obstacles* report. It contained some 130 recommendations that all levels of governments could undertake to alleviate some of the crises that many disabled Canadians found themselves in.

Some 12 or 13 years later, the same committee has found that while governments seldom say the wrong thing, very often and more often than not, governments seldom do the right thing.

Therefore, disabled Canadians not only in Canada but internationally as well will find themselves continually at the low end of the income scale and with deprived access to services that most other Canadians and able-bodied persons have a right to.