

SERVICE MEDALS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, recently members of the Canadian Armed Forces who served in the gulf war were recognized for their outstanding dedication and professionalism when the Canadian government created the Gulf and Kuwait Campaign Medal. Earlier this year, in June, the government announced the creation of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea.

The Cameron Association in Winnipeg asks us all to recall an event of great significance in the course of the Second World War in Europe: the raid on the French coastal port of Dieppe in 1942.

Many Dieppe veterans are asking, with the 50th anniversary of the Dieppe raid approaching in 1992, that the Government of Canada finally do the right thing and strike a medal to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism, heroism, sacrifice and contribution that was demonstrated by so many Canadians on August 19, 1942.

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BILL C-17

Mr. Dave Worthy (Cariboo—Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, late last night the legislative committee passed Bill C-17, the government's proposed gun control legislation.

I want to congratulate all those who contributed to the process, but in particular committee members from all sides of the House, for the diligence and dedication required to achieve this improved bill.

For some of us the process began a number of months ago with the special committee on Bill C-80. Many said that we were attempting to hijack, scuttle or water down the bill. It will be obvious to all in this House that this has not happened. In fact the opposite is true.

The democratic process was allowed to function and the result is legislation that is stronger and more effective, just as predicted by the Minister of Justice.

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BURMA

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast): Mr. Speaker, did you know that Petro-Canada, still 80 per cent owned by the people of Canada, is currently training the

son of the managing director of the state owned Myanmar Oil Corporation in Calgary?

The military government of Burma, according to Amnesty International, operates one of the most oppressive regimes on earth. It has no basis to exist in law or in democratic practice.

The 85th Interparliamentary Conference held in Korea earlier this year passed a resolution expressing concern that the Burmese Parliament had not been allowed to sit since the May 1990 elections and that 62 elected parliamentarians had been arrested.

The latest sleight of hand by the Burmese regime has been to amend the election law with the retroactive effect of barring anyone convicted of a security or moral offence from running for Parliament.

Petro-Canada will never retrieve the \$6 million paid as a "signing bonus" for the right to drill for oil in Burma, but it could still retrieve some of its honour and Canada's by disentangling itself, even at this late stage, from its involvement with a regime that has shown no regard for human rights or democratic principles.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

We keep hearing all the ministers of the government saying that the recession is over. I want to tell the Prime Minister that if they would take the time to go across the country like I have, they would meet the plant workers.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chrétien: I met 7,000 farmers yesterday and they all know that if we had not put pressure on this government for a month and a half nothing would have happened.

If they were to talk with the plant workers who are losing their jobs, they would know that these people do not think that the recession is over. If they were to meet with the single mothers who are obliged to go to the food banks, they would know that they do not think the recession is over.