

When the men came home, it would be to a wrecked Atlantic alliance, to a discredited UN and to a Europe undermined by its failure to meet the first post-Cold War challenge to the unity and strength to which it aspires. It would be to a world in which the relations between Europe and America, between the West and Russia, and between the West and the Muslim world could never be the same again.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Are you almost finished?

Senator Graham: In some ways, the rupture of relations between the countries of a disillusioned West could, in fact, prove to be more ruinous to our future hopes and aspirations than the Bosnian debacle.

In conclusion, honourable senators, I believe that we must reflect very seriously on the symbolism of a retreat from the Bosnian nightmare, because the mirror of sanity is not only essential to the survival of Bosnians, it is essential — perhaps even more important in these times — to the collective determination of western capitals to get on with the future. Once that mirror cracks, we lose a glimpse of the possible. That, to me, would be the real horror of a Dunkirk-style retreat.

TRANSPORT

AD HOC PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON LIGHTSTATIONS— CONSULTATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hon. Pat Carney: Honourable senators, on behalf of Senator Mike Forrestall and myself, I want to give a preliminary assessment on the work of the Ad Hoc Parliamentary Committee on Lightstations which met last week with coastal British Columbians to discuss this government's plans to destaff the lights.

Our committee, comprised of two Conservative senators and three B.C. Reform MPs, heard from 65 presenters in four coastal centres: Richmond, Sidney, Campbell River, and because of the interest, Naniamo. Please note that this is nearly double the 35 originally scheduled to appear before the Senate Transport Committee, which voted to cancel the trips two working days before the hearings were to begin.

These 65 presenters did not include the many opponents of destaffing who have written to us, including the Government of British Columbia, the NDP caucus, the Liberal opposition caucus, six cabinet ministers, the Union of B.C. municipalities, and villages, towns, districts and band councils along the coast.

In addition, petitions signed by more than 15,000 concerned British Columbians, expressing opposition to destaffing, were tabled during our hearings and will be filed in this chamber at the appropriate time.

Angry aviators, fishers, marine pilots, boaters, kayakers and residents of coastal communities appeared before the committee to express their hostility to destaffing in the interests of maritime aviation safety. They came off their fishing boats, their tugs, their floatplanes "looking for blood," in the words of one aviator. One young man sang us his brief in the beautiful museum at Campbell River. A community nurse and mayor drove over from

the west coast community of Gold River, and all of them echoed the concern of Campbell River pilot Stan Kaardal who told us:

I use lighthouse weathers every day and I have to have them to do my work safely. We do not use automatic weather reports for flight planning because they are of no use to us.

Later, I will report our committee's findings to the chamber, but today I want to list some of the groups and organizations which appeared before us during these lengthy and emotional hearings. These included the British Columbia Aviation Council, the Council of Marine Carriers, the Pacific Trollers Association, the Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, the Pacific Gillnetters Association, the B.C. Federation of Labour, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway and Transport Union representing towboat employees, Westwater Research Centre, Marine Life Sanctuary Society, Outdoor Recreational Council representing 200,000 British Columbians, the Sea Kayak Association of B.C., Lightkeepers from Nootka Lightstation, Point Atkinson and Entrance Island, residents of Saturna and Mayne Islands, the MLA of Alberni (representing 13 West Coast MLAs), Marine Parks Forever and the Council of B.C. Yacht Clubs, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Institute of Ocean Sciences, the Director of the Tsunami Warning System, Institute of Ocean Sciences, the Geological Survey of Canada, Nootka Charters of Tofino, Lester B. Pearson College, the B.C. Fisheries Survival Coalition, the B.C. Fishermen's Redress Committee, Pacific Trollers Association, Campbell River Chamber of Commerce, Transport Committee, Meteorologist at Flight Dispatch of Canadian Airlines International, Aircraft Operators Association, Strathcone Park Lodge Outdoor Centre, Gulf Trollers Association and representatives of native groups, the Canadian Aircraft Association, Coastal Communities for Staffed Lighthouses, Save Georgia Strait Alliance, and others.

If other provinces, including Quebec, voice this level of concern, the government in Ottawa will listen. British Columbia demands no less.

HEALTH

COMMEMORATION OF WORLD AIDS DAY

Hon. Sharon Carstairs: Honourable senators, throughout the world today we are commemorating World AIDS Day. I notice that many senators are wearing their red ribbons to commemorate this day.

It is important that we reflect on this dreadful disease which has killed 7,200 Canadian in the last 10 years. A number of others, in fact, are now HIV-positive.

This disease was greatly ignored in the early years because it was considered to be a homosexual disease. However, it is not. Indeed, the largest single group now contracting HIV is heterosexual women.

We must not forget those who have contracted the disease from surgery, through blood transfusions, or those who are haemophiliac and received HIV through blood products; nor must we ignore the intravenous drug users, who certainly live on the darker side of our society.