

THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

The Senate met at 1:30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

[Later]

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN GALLERY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I should like to draw your attention to the presence of distinguished guests in the Speaker's Gallery, being Mr. Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, Minister of Foreign Affairs from the Republic of Cuba, and accompanying him is His Excellency, Bienvenido García Negrín, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Canada.

SENATORS' STATEMENTS

THE LATE JOHN PETERS HUMPHREY

TRIBUTE

Hon. Stanley Haidasz: Honourable senators, I wish to make a brief recollection this afternoon of John Peters Humphrey, who passed away last week at the age of 89 in Hampstead, Montreal.

Mr. Humphrey, who is called the godfather of human rights in Canada, drafted the 1946-47 preliminary Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted with amendments by the United Nations in 1948. To such a daunting task he had been nominated by Eleanor Roosevelt. Since then his name has never been absent in penetrating discussions on human rights. The Universal Declaration itself has been said, by Pope John Paul II, to form "the basic inspiration and cornerstone of the United Nations," as its predicate is, "everyone" is to bar not one human life. So wide was the renown of John Humphrey that even at the age of 86 he received from Soka University in Japan the Award of Highest Honour.

Recipient of numerous degrees and honours, Mr. Humphrey distinguished himself especially in the professorship of law at McGill University in Montreal and as a director of the Division of Human Rights at the United Nations Secretariat during its first twenty years in existence. He published significant works on human rights all through his public life, including *Human Rights and the United Nations: A Great Adventure*, translated into French as recently as 1989, and another book, *No Distant Millennium: The International Law of Human Rights*, published the same year.

Mr. Humphrey participated in many commissions, such as the 1970 UN Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — of which he was chairman — as well as the recent 1988-90 International Commission of Inquiry into the famine in the Ukraine of 1932-33. He was also principal secretary to the UN mission to war-torn Vietnam in 1963,

president of the Canadian Commission for the International Year for Human Rights from 1968 to 1970, National President of the UN Associations in Canada, and he was even a member of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

Deeply respected for his penetrating mind and regarded widely as an authority in his field, Mr. Humphrey received very many awards and honours, including the John Reid Medal for International Law in 1973, officer of the Order of Canada in 1974, the Order of Quebec in 1985, and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, also known as the Knights of Malta, in 1986. Incidentally, in Malta, Mr. Humphrey acted as vice-president in 1987 of the UNESCO conference on the Teaching of Human Rights. Tutoring others as to the intricacies of efforts to reclaim or defend human rights became the lasting work of this indomitable soul.

I would like to state also that Mr. Humphrey's passing last week was marked by recognition and the profound sense of loss of a prime mentor and, indeed, a pioneer by many associations in which he was active or an honorary member, including the Canadian Human Rights Foundation from which he retired as recently as 1991 with the deserved honour of President Emeritus. Having been president of the Canadian branch of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, among his many other affiliations, the person of Mr. Humphrey will be sorely missed, while the far-reaching influence of his insight and his guiding principles in human rights abide as a shining example to Canada and the world.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

REPORT OF CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

Hon. William M. Kelly: Honourable senators may have noticed that, in the other place, Mr. Derek Leé has introduced a motion that there be a parliamentary oversight review committee formed to deal with the activities of the Communications Security Establishment, or CSE, which, it has been suggested, has not come under parliamentary oversight review for the fifty-odd years during which it has been in business. It is, therefore, appropriate to make a comment on the latest report from CSIS on the question of international terrorism. I will be as brief as possible.

• (1340)

According to its report published in January 1995, CSIS conducted a situational assessment on international and domestic terrorism. First the good news: Left-wing terrorism is distinctly on the wane. The Germans have effectively broken the Red Army faction; the Italians have done the same with the Red Brigade. Belgium has been very successful against Action Direct. Only Greece and Turkey, in particular, still have significant problems with left-wing terrorism. State-sponsored terrorism in the USSR has been virtually eradicated, due to the breakup of the Soviet Union. So much for the good news.