

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SUPPORT FOR WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS

Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland—Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, a true north strong and free! We will now be able to say that with greater conviction, with greater confidence, since the release of the White Paper on National Defence *Challenge and Commitment*.

The Government has no aggressive intentions toward any country, but, as the White Paper pointed out, we can and will deter the use of force against Canada and Canadian interests.

The proud men and women of our three services, in their distinctive uniforms, now know that they will have the tools to do the job, to carry out those responsibilities which the Government has imposed upon them.

Well selected, well trained, and finally well equipped, they and all Canadians can share the satisfaction that we, in concert with our friends and allies in NATO, are making our contribution to world peace and harmony.

The introduction of a White Paper was a promise made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and by the Government. We all take heart at its deliverance.

* * *

• (1410)

THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, a poll released over the weekend shows that 70 per cent of Canadians believe the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) lifestyle is too lavish. Even Tory supporters believe that the Prime Minister should conduct himself in a more down to earth fashion. In other words, Canadians are saying no more \$3,000 per night suites, no more butlers, no more maids, no more people to watch their luggage, no more closets to hold 80 pair of Guccis, no more back-up planes and, finally, no more podium to travel around with.

Canadians expect their Prime Minister and members of the Government to live well, but do not want their money to be wasted in a manner which is more synonymous with the rich and elite. Will the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) now say to the Canadian people that they are guilty of muck-raking too, because that is what I asked the Deputy Prime Minister last week in the House of Commons? The people of Canada believe that the extravagance and the excess must come to an end. Let us see if the Deputy Prime Minister will make accusations against them too, now.

S. O. 21

SPINA BIFIDA WEEK

DISABLING DISEASE AFFECTING NEW-BORN CHILDREN—NEED FOR GREATER AWARENESS

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, June 8 to June 14 of this year is Spina Bifida Week in Canada. Spina bifida is one of the leading disablers of new-born children in our country, and is known by most experts to happen more frequently than muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, polio, or cystic fibrosis combined, yet until recently most people had never heard of it.

Prior to the early 1960s, the majority of babies born with spina bifida died. Today, thanks to medical advances, nearly all new-borns with spina bifida survive and, with aggressive medical rehabilitation, they can become contributing members of our society.

The Spina Bifida Association of Canada will be making a special effort this week—and I repeat “this week”—to encourage greater awareness of this pre-natal condition. I would urge all Members of this House, and all Canadians, to participate in these activities. We must join in the spirited efforts led by a great Canadian, Mr. Rick Hansen, to increase awareness of spinal cord and related defects and ultimately to find a cure for these disabling conditions.

* * *

TRADE

EFFECT OF U.S. FARM BILL ON CANADIAN HONEY EXPORTS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, American farm policies, using their “buy-back” scheme, have virtually closed the doors on Canada's beekeepers.

Historically, this nation's apiculturists have shipped over one-quarter of their annual production southward. This figure has risen dramatically in recent years with more than 8,500 tonnes of honey enjoyed by American citizens last year, putting \$12.5 million into the honey jars of Canadian beekeepers. But the Farm Bill has soured things.

A Canadian beekeeper selling into the U.S. today would net 40 cents to 44 cents a pound Canadian, which is equivalent to the U.S. buy-back price. Cost of production on the Prairies, however, is 58 cents a pound. As a result of this, no Canadian honey flowed southward in 1987. About one-third of the year's production was in storage until beekeepers began to sell off at fire sale prices to get badly needed cash.

The Farm Bill is also damaging our traditional markets. U.S. producers are quoting honey into European markets at 8 cents to 10 cents a pound below Canada's prices. In light of the hurt being done, I feel the Canadian Government should consider the Honey Council's request for \$15 per colony compensation for their losses.