

depending on our progress, our intention at this stage is to move then to Bill C-36, relating to motor vehicle safety.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I ask what happened to the representations that I made to the parliamentary secretary on Friday? Since we are scraping the barrel, it might be a good idea to deal with Bill C-30.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, I undertook to my hon. friend to raise this item with the President of the Privy Council upon his return to the House. Unfortunately I have not personally had an opportunity to do that yet but I will take it up at the first opportunity.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): So shall I.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

CANADA PENSION PLAN

TABLING OF REPORT ON ALLOWANCE FOR RAISING CHILDREN

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 41(2), I would like to table in the House a report submitted by the advisory committee on the Canada Pension Plan concerning the absolute exclusion from the Canada Pension Plan for raising children.

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[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

THIRTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY LANDING IN
NORMANDY

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to inform hon. members that today is the 33rd anniversary of the D-Day landing in Normandy. Thirty-three years ago today men of Canada joined with their British and United States allies to breach the wall of darkness and oppression which for four long years had lain like a millstone on France and the low countries. It was D-Day for freedom, the start of the northwest European campaign which culminated, 11 months later, in the complete surrender of the enemies of freedom.

The cost in lives was high. On D-Day alone, Canada suffered almost a thousand casualties, of whom 340 were killed or died of wounds. The men who fell on the beaches and in the bitter bridgehead battles are buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery and today officials, both military and civilian, from our Canadian Embassy in Paris have laid wreaths at that site in memory of those courageous soldiers. Those wreaths were placed there today in the name of all Canadians,

Anniversary of D-Day Landing

a significant reminder to the free world that Canada, and every province in Canada, played a major role in obtaining the way of life we enjoy today.

June 6, 1944 is an important day in the history of our country as a nation—the D-Day landing in Normandy—and if we still believe in Canada as we did when that belief called for sacrifice, we will again commit ourselves to the task at hand, to preserve the integrity of Canada as a nation from sea to sea.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, with all members of this House who are veterans of the Second World War, I want to join with the Minister of Veterans Affairs to mention the anniversary which is celebrated in memory of millions of Canadians and which will remain for all of us, I would say, one of the most shining memories of our lives.

[English]

If I make a personal reflection at this point, Mr. Speaker, I recall being a prisoner of war in Germany following the Dieppe raid, and I am sure that those of us who had access to clandestine radio at that time had no greater surge of hope than the June 6 landing. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that by that time the western nations had had four years of very bitter experience and despair in World War II, but then we had this glorious day, June 6.

I had been an ocular witness on many of the beaches where colleagues of other regiments landed, some to give up their lives, others to be wounded, but all as Canadians fighting for the protection of Canada against disintegration from outside. That generation knew what was going to happen to Canada if the enemy prevailed. To repeat what the minister has said, millions of Canadians were enrolled in Canada's armed forces during World War II. Thousands upon thousands died and many more thousands were wounded. This country went through a great sacrifice in order to take one more step in the welding of a nation. We have no intention of seeing that welded nation dismembered at any time by anyone.

● (1540)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we of the New Democratic Party believe it is highly appropriate that the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) has made the statement which he just delivered to the House on this thirty-third anniversary of the D-Day landing at Normandy. The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) has given us his recollections of the day from a vantage point which we appreciate and respect. I recall that it was a very solemn day here in this House of Commons. We had a statement from the then prime minister, the Right Hon. Mackenzie King, of what was developing. I also recall for a portion of that day we gathered as members across in Room 16 to listen to a radio broadcast from London which included a message from His Majesty King George VI. We were aware of the great significance of that day.