

Tribute to Steve Fonyo

presently injured, and to arrange the safe return of the abducted Palestinians. We cannot turn away from this cruelty.

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● (1415)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties and, today being a unique and special Canadian day when Steve Fonyo reaches the end of his important journey across Canada, we have agreed that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), and the Leader of the NDP will each have an opportunity to address this important occasion. Therefore, Question Period will be extended for the period of time used up on this occasion.

Mr. Speaker: Is that understood and agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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STEVE FONYO**TRIBUTES TO ONE-LEGGED RUNNER ON COMPLETION OF "JOURNEY FOR LIVES"**

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of all Parties, today, together with all Canadians, I take pride in saluting Steve Fonyo, our courageous young countryman, who has completed his epic run across this vast land. After many months and countless miles he has reached his destination, he has realized his dream.

Steve Fonyo, despite his crippling disability, has accomplished this remarkable feat because he is a man of genuine courage, driven by a desire to help others who are or might become victims of the disease that he faces with such fortitude. His first step on his journey for lives was a giant step for all of us. Through his valiant efforts he has made a significant contribution to the cause of cancer research and the eventual conquest of a grievous malady. On behalf of all Members of the House of Commons and all Canadians, I salute him warmly today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mulroney: Alone and vulnerable, overcoming his handicap with each step, Steve Fonyo has blazed a trail of courage across the breadth of this continent.

In so doing, he has made each of us part of an event which, in addition to its unique individual achievement, has acquired meaning for us all.

His unspoken but eloquent message is that there are other answers to human vicissitudes besides despair; other ways to combat evil besides violence; and other solutions to injustice.

Steve Fonyo is among those who believe that individuals find their ultimate dignity in throwing off the chains imposed by day-to-day existence.

[*English*]

Steve Fonyo has made his painful progress from St. John's to Victoria. He has given us a shining example of the true strength of the human spirit. He demonstrated anew the power of courage, the capacity of a man of inflexible resolve and indomitable will to struggle, to endure, and so to achieve his cherished goal. Steve Fonyo's personal triumph is a matter of national pride.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: We stand in admiration of his extraordinary achievement. We are all the richer because of the legacy of hope and inspiration that he has given all of us. Where there is a generous heart and gallant spirit great things can be achieved. This, I think, is the lesson we have learned from Steve Fonyo, the long-distance runner.

[*Translation*]

On behalf of all Canadians, I want to offer my congratulations and best wishes, not only to Steve Fonyo but also to his family, to his truly remarkable parents, and on behalf of all Members of the House of Commons, I again wish to extend our sincere congratulations today.

[*English*]

Let me assure you, Steve, that all Canadians rejoice with you and with your family today. Yours is a unique achievement, a splendid accomplishment. You are a Canadian of historic stature, worthy of our utmost esteem. On behalf of the Government and the people of Canada and on behalf of my colleagues of all Parties of the House of Commons I offer heartfelt sentiments of gratitude and pride, and I express our most fervent hopes for your personal health and happiness.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1420)

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and second what he has so ably said. On behalf of fellow Members in the House, I pay tribute to one of Canada's outstanding young men. Steve Fonyo said to his fellow citizens in B.C. Place, "I am not a hero. I am just a 19 year old guy who got cancer". Steve, there are not very many 19 year old guys who run across Canada on one good leg to raise money for cancer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): On Monday we watched as he ran into Vancouver's B.C. Place. We watched as he was greeted by his fellow British Columbians. We have watched as