

Multiple sclerosis is the most common neurological disease among young adults in Canada; it is estimated that over 50,000 Canadians and Quebecers have this disease, for which there is no treatment so far. We must also mention that Canada has one of the highest rates of multiple sclerosis of any country in the world. Given the seriousness of the situation, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada hopes to raise \$2 million in its national carnation campaign.

• (1410)

I am therefore pleased to join the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada in asking hon. members and all Quebecers and Canadians to support this worthy cause.

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[English]

BOSNIA

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of all Canadians the tragic plight of children in Bosnia.

None of us has been unaffected by the misery in Bosnia that we witness nightly. The children deserve a special degree of compassion. Untold thousands are homeless. Thousands have lost their parents. We do not know how many are languishing as refugees.

I urge Canadians to remember these innocent victims. I especially urge Canadians to support the work of Bosnian Children's Relief. I do not need to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that in your riding five Bosnian children are now safe and secure, having been granted a safe haven by Bosnian Children's Relief, but there are many more.

I call on the minister of immigration to review the guidelines relating to the granting of temporary safe haven visas for children.

With the help of the government, Bosnian Children's Relief could do much more in helping to preserve the innocence of children caught in an adult nightmare.

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BOSNIA

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, the children of Bosnia are the greatest victims of the daily carnage occurring in that part of the world. Thousands of children have been deprived of their childhood. They have seen their fathers murdered and their mothers raped. They have had their homes burned and all too often been uprooted as their village has been "ethnically cleansed".

The deliberate shelling of schools, hospitals and other non-military targets has killed and permanently disabled many children of Bosnia. All the children of Bosnia will carry the psychological scars for many years to come.

Do those who have unleashed this madness in the name of some twisted notion of a greater nation not realize that the welfare and happiness of children is the future of their nation? Do they not realize that inflicting the suffering they have on children will only produce a sick nation whose citizens will have to live with the shame and guilt for generations to come?

I join my voice with all humanity in imploring, hoping and praying that the carnage will stop.

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BOSNIA

Mr. Julian Reed (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Canada-Croatia parliamentary friendship group and as a member of the parliamentary committee on human rights, I rise in the House today with so many of my colleagues in a joint effort to honour the victims of the present war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

From the selfish pursuit of territory and the inhuman drive known as ethnic cleansing, over 200,000 souls have lost their lives in what is today not the only but one of the bloodiest parts of the world.

Countless more have been physically injured, psychologically tormented and driven from their homes as refugees. Thousands of these deaths as well as refugees have been children on whose shoulders lie the only hope for a more tolerant world.

As parliamentarians, citizens and humanists, let us welcome refugees to Canada from this area of conflict in the world as from such other areas and let us celebrate their courage.

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OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Mr. Bob Ringma (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I watched as the Leader of the Opposition explained on the CBC his reasons for separation. He said: "All we want to do is manage our own money; that's all". Not once did I hear the words language or culture.

If all Canada represents to the Official Opposition is dollars and cents then I urge the government to take the same tough stand it has taken with my own province, British Columbia, over medicare. All provinces would like more control of their own affairs but not at the expense of destroying our country.

If the true agenda of members of the official opposition is simply economic sovereignty let them say so and quit confusing the issue and their supporters with the pretence of a francophone homeland.

On behalf of all Canadians who love this country more than just the income they derive from it, I urge the government to fully explain the costs and ramifications of economic freedom to Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.