

The Late Milton Gregg

the whole world of assured open access to the Canal, could the Prime Minister indicate that the Canadian government and people support the early conclusion of an agreement between Panama and the United States as a valuable contribution to hemispheric and international good will?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the way in which the hon. member has asked his question because Canada, of course, is not a party to this treaty. Hon. members on this side of the House and, I am sure, hon. members opposite would not want to intervene in a legislative process which is currently before the United States Senate. However, I think I can satisfy the hon. member by referring him to the so-called Declaration of Washington which was signed and adhered to by every western leader, head of state or head of government, with only one exception, when we convened in Washington early last September.

We signed the Declaration of Washington because we felt it was a development which would bring stability to the hemisphere. If I may quote two phrases from that declaration, I am sure the House would see the position of the Canadian government and, I believe, the Canadian parliament on this matter. They are:

Considering that settlement of the Panama Canal issue represents a major step toward strengthening of relations among the nations of the western hemisphere on a basis of common interest, equality, and mutual respect for the sovereignty and independence of every state; Recognizing the importance for hemisphere and world commerce and navigation of arrangements for assuring the continuing accessibility and neutrality of the Panama Canal—

Therefore, the government certainly joins with the view expressed by the opposition that this treaty is conducive to bringing greater stability to the western hemisphere.

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THE LATE MILTON GREGG, V.C.

TRIBUTES TO FORMER SOLDIER AND PARLIAMENTARIAN

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I rise today to inform hon. members of this House that Canada has lost another of its great champions. This morning I received the news that the Hon. Milton F. Gregg, V.C., had died at his home in New Brunswick.

Many of us pass through this life without making a ripple on the surface, but such was not the case with our friend, Milton Gregg. He served with distinction during the First World War and won the Military Cross at Lens in 1917, a bar to the cross at Arras in 1918, and the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery and initiative during operations near Cambrai in the same year.

Following the war, Brigadier General Gregg went into private business, and in 1934 he was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms here in the House of Commons.

He re-enlisted during the Second World War and again served overseas. Following the war years he served as president of the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, and in

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

1947 was appointed Federal Minister of Fisheries. He was later appointed Minister of Veterans Affairs and even later, Labour Minister.

In 1964 Milton Gregg was appointed Commissioner for Canada in British Guyana. Four years later he retired. This retirement was short-lived, however, and later that same year he was appointed President of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation here in Ottawa.

Milton Gregg was in his eighty-sixth year, yet he had the stamina and initiative of a man half his age. He was part of the official delegation which accompanied me to Vimy Ridge last April as we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of that great battle in France.

It was always a pleasure and honour to be in the company of this great Canadian. He was loved and admired by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

The measure of a man's life is not its duration but its donation. Milton Gregg excelled both ways. His life was long and happy, and his donation left this world a better place because he was part of it.

On behalf of the Government of Canada I would like to offer our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Gregg.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my leader and my party I join with the minister in expressing our sadness at the passing of that distinguished veteran Canadian, Brigadier General Milton Fowler Gregg. Not only did he serve with distinction in two world wars, attaining the highest military honour, the Victoria Cross, but he also served with distinction in this House of Commons. He probably is the only Canadian who ever served as Sergeant-at-Arms and then later served in three portfolios in the Government of Canada.

Canada is a better place in which to live as a result of Brigadier General Gregg's contribution, and in expressing sympathy to Mrs. Gregg we in this House give her the assurance of our appreciation of Brigadier General Gregg's exceptional and distinguished service to our nation.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I feel that it is most appropriate that we take a moment to salute this great Canadian. Those of us who knew Milton Gregg regard it as a high privilege to have been numbered among his friends. He was indeed a valiant Canadian. He was an outstanding gentleman who served this country in business, in education, and in the Government of Canada. I remember him particularly in the three portfolios that he held. He handled each of them with efficiency and with fairness to all who were interested in each of those departments. Indeed, it can be said that Canada is a better place because Milton Gregg lived so many years in our midst. We join in this tribute to his memory, and we extend our sympathy to Mrs. Gregg, to his daughter, and to all who were near and dear to him.