

*Routine Proceedings*

given to the Canadian Airborne Regiment stationed in Petawawa.

These are families, too. They must live. When their spouses are under criticism in the media and in the country it is difficult on those families. We had incidents of very difficult situations for some of the children of those families in the schools. It is totally unfair for people to serve our nation and at the same time have to face this kind of situation at home. They are there to do a job and they will do the job.

• (2130)

Some people today say that the cold war is over, we do not need any of our forces, we can cut back on them and we can do with much less and so on. Look around the world. What do we see today? We see problems in every region of the world today and that is where we are asking our Canadian forces to go. If we are going to cut back on our military community today then what we are doing is putting ourself in a less prepared way to face the challenges faced by us in the world at large.

Where does it place us so far as our work with the United Nations is concerned? Canada is so well respected around the world. We must continue to work with the United Nations, with the other members of the United Nations and show the unity not only within Canada itself as many of us are very interested in doing these days and every day, but unity within the world community itself and peace.

If we allow these disturbances in various parts of the world to grow into major wars then we have not allowed ourselves the pleasure or accepted the responsibility of bringing peace to the world at large.

What happened in World War I? Let us do a little historical study here. World War I broke out because the rest of the countries in the free world were not prepared for what they had to face when World War I was declared. Canada lost more than 66,000 in that war.

What did we do after World War I? We did exactly the same thing. The same thinking is going on today. We downsized our forces, cut back on them, we did not need them anymore. The First World War was the war to end all wars.

It only took a quarter of a century to start off with World War II. Who did we count on? We counted again

on our younger generations in Canada and we enrolled 1.1 million in our forces in World War II. There were over 600,000 in World War I. In World War II we lost over 45,000 of those talented young people. That is not counting the wounded and those who are left with wounds for life and those who are left with nerve problems for life. They inherited horrendous situations from those two world wars.

Following World War II we did not have time to readjust before the Korean war came along. We were ready for that one and as a result we supported the United Nations strongly. The United Nations was able to win the Korean war, win the point of the UN of maintaining a boundary line that had been drawn under UN auspices. That line was defended. We lost another 516 young people in the Korean war, to say nothing of the wounded who lived on after.

The Department of Veterans Affairs over the years has been the department to look after veterans in this country. A lot of those people now are getting older. It behoves us in this Parliament to give them their just due and to give them the benefit of the doubt when they make claims for war injuries and problems that arose out of those wars.

All we have to do today is look at Yugoslavia to find out what a tremendous liability and problem it is to have people who cannot live together in peace.

• (2135)

We have to handle those situations and certainly countries are coming together to handle them but we must continue to support the United Nations and we must never give up on that international organization because to date it has done a far better job than any other international organization we have ever had in the world for that purpose.

As we ask our soldiers to go around the world to various points of duty and to handle very difficult situations let us think of those families too who are here at home and who need a little help at that time and certainly a great deal of support.

I cannot sit down tonight without talking about medicare. I was in the hospital for several days recently and I heard on the television set how we had to cut back on medicare in this country. It was getting too expensive and the bottom line had to be such and such a figure.