

The Late President Truman

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The motion cannot be proceeded with.

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THE LATE HARRY S. TRUMAN

TRIBUTES TO FORMER PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the past few days have witnessed the death of three men whose public contributions have made them well known to Canadians. Yesterday this House paid tribute to the memory of two of them, the former Prime Minister Pearson and the Honourable George Drew. It is appropriate today, however, to mourn the passing of another important figure, the late President Harry S. Truman of the United States.

The years in which President Truman occupied his office were among the most turbulent and eventful in recent history. We are all in his debt for the calmness; decisiveness and spirit of generosity with which he approached problems of immense importance, and for the friendliness with which he regarded this country. Few heads of government have faced such momentous decisions as those that were required of President Truman during his tenure. Some of them will be debated by historians for many years. Others rank without question among the most enlightened acts of modern statesmen. In this latter category falls the inception of the Marshall Plan which brought such remarkable restoration to the war-stricken countries of western Europe.

As a measure of Canadian respect for President Truman, and to convey Canadian condolences to the Truman family, Senator Paul Martin is attending the memorial services which are in progress at this moment in the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

• (1110)

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to associate myself and the members of the Official Opposition with the tribute proposed by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to the memory of President Truman. President Truman had grave decisions to make. As the Prime Minister has said, historians may discuss the pros and cons of some of those decisions, but he certainly was a man who talked frankly and acted energetically and courageously for his country when he thought the situation warranted such words or deeds. He was most courageous. He rose from a relatively minor position in the life of his country to the highest office of that nation and achieved universal respect.

President Truman was a vital president and a friend of Canada and all Canadians. As president he was able to identify himself with what we might call the ordinary man of his own country. I think it is very fitting for us to honour the memory of President Truman on the same day that he is being honoured in a memorial service by the people of his native country.

I should like to take this opportunity to join with the Prime Minister in offering my sympathy to Mr. Truman's

[Mr. Speaker.]

family and to all our good friends and neighbours, the people of the United States.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I and my colleagues want to join in paying tribute to the late President Truman. There are some things for which his presidency was responsible that have shaken the world and its future and about which there will be great and serious argument in the future. I refer, of course, to the use of the atomic bomb to end the second world war. There are other things for which President Truman was responsible about which there is undoubtedly universal agreement and admiration, particularly the introduction of the Marshall Plan which did so much to rebuild a devastated Europe.

Therefore it is my pleasure on behalf of the New Democratic Party to extend sympathy to Mr. Truman's family and to the people of the United States, and to join with those who have already spoken in paying tribute to a man who started as practically an unknown and surprised the world with his capacity for decisiveness and leadership.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and myself join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to extend our sympathy to the family of the former President of the United States, Mr. Truman.

Mr. Truman was President of the United States during difficult years, yet he managed to lead that country to some unexpected heights not only in wartime, but also in peacetime.

We are therefore pleased to join with the other members to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Truman family.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE FOR MOTION ON VIET NAM WAR

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer, if I may, to a matter raised yesterday in respect of proposing the resolution having to do with hostilities in Viet Nam.

Hon. members will have noticed that on the notice paper today there is notice of a motion by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp). It is to be found on almost the last page of the Order of Business and Notices.

Under the rules of the House the motion cannot be proceeded with, without unanimous consent, in the absence of 48 hours' notice. It would not be my intention to interrupt the debate on the Speech From the Throne in order to deal with this matter.

However, it may be possible by consent of members to deal with this item of business now on motions without debate or to reach some other agreement by which we can deal with it briefly this afternoon following the speeches of the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I have not been able, because of the number of meetings House leaders have had to attend this morning, to consolidate an agreement. So I raise the matter now in the hope that we may be able to find some