

House of Commons

about the success of the Municipal Development and Loan Act.

In fact, the Minister has announced that almost 1,500 loans were made to some 1,000 Canadian municipalities and have proven themselves to be an efficient weapon against unemployment, that the municipalities which have borrowed at a reasonable interest rate have enjoyed advantages unknown to them previously.

That leads me to say to the Minister of Finance that as a result of our numerous suggestions since he has taken over his department, he is not so dumb; when we ask him to provide the provinces with the necessary funds for their development enabling them to help the municipalities and the school boards with interest-free credit created by the Bank of Canada, he knows that such legislation makes sense and could be passed by the house.

Should he do so, I am convinced he would be highly satisfied to have been of service not only to a section of the people but to every Canadian and he would realize what a tremendous success it would be to finance without interest the whole Canadian public administration so that the taxpayers would not have to pay two or three times for the services available to them. Is there a municipality today which does not need improvement or economic development?

Instead of informing us that this scheme will be discontinued on March 31, 1966, the Minister of Finance should inform us that as of now he will follow a new policy, making the services of the Bank of Canada available to the provinces, the municipalities and school boards of our country.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS**TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF
HON. NORMAN MCLEOD ROGERS**

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to permit me to refer to the tragedy of 25 years ago today, when a former Minister of National Defence was killed in an airplane crash.

The late Norman Rogers was honoured on June 12, 1940, by burial from the Houses of Parliament. Born at Amherst, Nova Scotia, in 1894, Norman Rogers served Canada in many capacities. He was Minister of Labour in the Mackenzie King government from 1935 to 1939, and from 1939 until his death was Minister of National Defence. An extract from

[Mr. Caouette.]

the diary of the late Right Hon. Mackenzie King reads:

As long as Canadian history continues to be recorded, Rogers' name will have its association with the Houses of Parliament as the first person to be honoured by burial from its Hall of Fame. This truly is as it ought to be.

I know that all hon. Members of the House will wish to join in paying tribute to the memory of this great Canadian, the late Hon. Norman McLeod Rogers.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, time flies and these events sometimes are effaced in memory. I remember that day very well. I asked Hon. Norman Rogers the last question that he was asked before he left on that fateful trip. Norman Rogers was a man who had a wide variety of avocations; an outstanding student, a fine parliamentarian, soldier of distinction in the First World War. Parliament and Canada were poorer when he passed away.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I associate the members of this group with the remarks that have been made on the twenty fifth anniversary of the death of Hon. Norman Rogers. I had the privilege of sitting in the House with him and I know of the great public service he gave to Canada. I also remember the great shock that was felt throughout this House when the news came of his untimely death. I think the Minister has done well to remind Parliament and the Canadian people, on the anniversary of his death, of the fine service which he rendered to his country.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, it was not my privilege nor that of anyone in our party to have known Hon. Norman Rogers personally, but certainly on many, many occasions I have heard him spoken of very highly, and we recognize the service that he gave to his country. I too remember the day very well, from outside this House, when that unfortunate accident took place. We join the Minister of National Defence and on this twenty fifth anniversary add our own words of remembrance of the service of this distinguished Canadian to his nation.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if you would pardon a personal note, when I was a very young man I had the honour and privilege of rooming with Norman Rogers during