

Raoul Wallenberg

Raoul Wallenberg is dead or alive. I know members of his family are still alive. I know he helped a great many people who are now Canadians. I know some of them. Some of them are Hungarian of Jewish religion who now live in Canada, some in Montreal.

I think Raoul Wallenberg is properly suggested for such an honour. Perhaps the next time the occasion arises we could look around the world and choose someone in order to show that Canada is a country which stands not only for human rights but that it is a country which does a great deal for its neighbours, as Mother Theresa is doing. To me that is very important.

On the eve of that great day, December 10, I would like Canadians to reflect on what human rights really means. There are too many people in the world who are too selective with respect to coming to someone's defence. Whose human rights are we ready to defend? There are many people who organize groups for the defence of human rights of this and that. On the eve of that great day I think Canadians should reflect not only with respect to the human rights of a group, because there are many, but on the human rights of individuals. Many people have come forward to say that in the Middle East there are issues with respect to human rights which should be raised in the House of Commons. I wish to echo those sentiments here today. I hope that my colleagues in the House will learn that when we talk about human rights we should not be selective. We should talk of human rights in general. When we consider honouring someone we should do so in particular, as the House has done today in honouring Raoul Wallenberg.

I now know the road to follow, and for the information of those Canadians listening and who will read this debate, in order to honour a second or third person as an honorary Canadian, one must go through the House of Commons. One must find a champion in the House of Commons who will put forward a motion. I intend to propose one with respect to Mother Theresa. Then one must ask the permission of one's colleague to withdraw his Bill and then ask the three Parties for unanimous consent. If the case is a *bona fide* one we can then proclaim the person an honorary citizen. Then, around the world, we can say that in Canada we not only honour our own citizens but people from outside of Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Messrs Guy Ricard (Laval) and Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence), seconded by Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain), moved that:

Whereas during World War II millions of Jews were exterminated in death camps at the hands of the Nazis in then occupied Europe;

And whereas hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews were facing extermination in 1944 through deportation to Germany under the orders of Adolf Eichmann;

And whereas Raoul Wallenberg as Secretary of the Swedish Legation went to Hungary in the summer of 1944;

And whereas Raoul Wallenberg, with extraordinary courage and with total disregard for the constant danger to himself, saved the lives of almost one hundred thousand innocent Jewish men, women and children, a considerable number of whom now live in Canada;

And whereas the Soviet Union, in violation of Raoul Wallenberg's Swedish diplomatic immunity and of international law, seized him on January 17, 1945, with no explanation ever given for his detention and subsequent imprisonment;

And whereas Raoul Wallenberg has been a prisoner in the Soviet Union since 1945;

And whereas reports from former prisoners in the Soviet Union, as recently as January, 1981, suggest that Raoul Wallenberg is still alive and remains a prisoner;

And whereas history has revealed that heroic acts of salvation were tragically rare during the massacre of millions of innocent human beings during World War II;

And whereas the significance of this symbol of humanity's concern for its fellows has been reduced by the wall of silence that surrounds the fate of Raoul Wallenberg;

Now therefore the House of Commons resolve that the said Raoul Wallenberg is hereby declared to be an honorary citizen of Canada;

And that a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House in the said Resolution by filling in the blank with the words, "Senate and the".

Is the motion agreed to?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would suggest that we call it six o'clock. We could proceed with the Adjournment Debate. We have one Parliamentary Secretary here to answer the questions. I would undertake on behalf of the Government to make sure that if the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Forrestall) is not here on time, we will certainly make arrangements to accommodate Members who are on the "Late Show" today.

That would be the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the House give unanimous consent to call it six o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 46 deemed to have been moved.