

### Adjournment Debate

enough, another brother of mine was in a medical school in Tokyo at the same time as a Canadian student and was allowed to finish his course.

(c) Loss of earnings for the years in the camp.

(d) Loss of self-worth, being treated like prisoners, having to carry photographs and ID cards with fingerprints and the necessity to get permission slips to move anywhere in the city.

(e) Loss of dignity and being forcibly ghettoized in tarpaper shacks.

The blatant truth and the bottom line of this so-called "black mark" against the government is that many people, including politicians and relatives of politicians and custodians, profited from this mass wholesale evacuation by being able to buy many of the lands and the houses at sidewalk sale prices—to buy boats and businesses for pittance, and all in the name of "Emergency War Measures Act". Shame!

This is supposed to be a land of oppo. unities. We will never become prosperous unless our mentality progresses to the point where we are all treated equally.

It is not easy to put myself back to those bewildering, painful years of my burgeoning adolescence, when morality and justice taught to me by my church was in full conflict to what Canada was doing to me as a Canadian of Japanese origin!

• (1825)

What are we going to do about this? The Minister of Multiculturalism indicated in the House that the Government was prepared to offer an apology to Canadians of Japanese origin and make changes to the War Measures Act so that this sort of thing would never happen again. However, the question remains: What about compensation? Is the Government prepared to pay compensation in this case?

Before the election campaign, in May of 1984, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) was quoted in *The Globe and Mail* as saying:

I feel very strongly that Canadian citizens whose rights were abused and violated and trampled upon indeed should be compensated.

If there was a Conservative Government I can assure you we would be compensating Japanese Canadians.

You are aware that just recently the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Bill not only offering an apology to Americans of Japanese origin but also providing for \$1.2 billion in compensation to those same Americans of Japanese origin.

We know what the Prime Minister said before the election. We know what the American House of Representatives is prepared to do. Tonight I want to know from the Parliamentary Secretary what Canada is prepared to do for Canadians of Japanese origin.

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Madam Speaker, I rise to respond to the three basic questions which the distinguished Member has just laid before the House. The first concerns an apology to those very seriously affected; the second concerns the intention of the Government with respect to the War Measures Act; the third concerns the question of compensation.

The Secretary of State (Mr. Crombie) already indicated very clearly in this House some months ago, as indeed had his predecessor, that this Government indicated to the National Association of Japanese-Canadians its willingness to acknowledge publicly the injustices suffered by Japanese Canadians, meeting the first demand of the NAJC. At this time, however, the association has asked us not to proceed with an official apology.

• (1830)

The question of changes to the War Measures Act is much more clear-cut. When the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Beatty) tabled his White Paper on defence policy he spoke very clearly on this matter. He said in part:

We will replace the War Measures Act with new emergencies legislation which will both better protect civil liberties and provide greater flexibility in dealing with emergencies.

As Hon. Members are aware, this has now been done with the tabling in the House on June 26 of two separate Bills, C-76 and C-77, designed to provide for the continuing security of Canadians in a changing world and to create a regime to deal with emergency situations. Bill C-76 fully meets the second demand of the NAJC taking an historic step to try to ensure that what happened, repugnant as it was to all Canadians, will never happen again.

The new defence legislation has benefited from considerable input from the several ministries which have responsibilities in this particular area. The input has been part of a thorough review of our defence policy which the Government promised the Canadian people in the Speech from the Throne opening the first session of this Parliament. We are not a militaristic nation and as the White Paper clearly states:

The legislation will include adequate safeguards to protect fundamental rights and freedoms and to limit both the duration and the substance of exceptional measures to no more than is needed.

The sole remaining issue is compensation. The Government has offered a \$12 million compensation package to be administered by representatives of the various Japanese-Canadian communities across Canada. The NAJC has rejected this offer, demanding instead individual per capita grants to people irrespective of loss or need. This would, as has been indicated to the House in the past, collectively exceed \$400 million. The Government does not consider this position equitable for reasons fully explained to the NAJC.

It is indeed regretted by all Canadians, not only those here in the House, that this important matter remains unresolved. The instances cited by my hon. colleague are important. I know the Secretary of State still stands ready to conclude satisfactorily this important question.

#### HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES—PRESENCE OF DIOXIN IN PAPER PRODUCTS—DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood):** Madam Speaker, I recently raised a question with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) with regard to