

Supply

As has been mentioned, the Canadians landed in Sicily at Pachino Beach on July 10, 1943. After having assisted in the conquering of Sicily, they moved up the Italian peninsula. They were involved in the downfall of the famous Gustav line. On May 11 they commenced the attack on the Gustav line and four days later it collapsed.

They moved on to the Hitler line and on May 23 they breached the line with the loss of 1,000 casualties. This enabled the allied forces to combine with the American forces who had landed at Anzio, just south of Rome prior to that. This campaign for the first time saw a Canadian corps in the field commanded by a Canadian general, in this case, General E.L.M. Burns who later became famous as the commander of the first peacekeeping force recommended by Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson.

Moving up the Italian peninsula, the Canadians fought with great determination and great capability. At the Guthic line just south of Rimini on August 25, it took them five days to break through this last foothold before they moved into the plains of Lombardy.

By 1945 the Italian campaign had pinned down 27 German divisions and unquestionably had a great impact on the outcome of the war with D-Day. During the Italian campaign, some 92,757 Canadians served in the Italian campaign. Of those 5,500-plus were killed, 20,000 were wounded and 1,000 were taken prisoner.

Canada won three VCs, Victoria Crosses, the highest commendation during that campaign: Captain Paul Triquet of the Royal 22nd Regiment, Major Mahony of the Westminster Regiment and Private E.A. Smokey Smith of the Seaforth Highlanders.

It is not only appropriate that this return to honour and commemorate the Canadians who participated in the Italian campaign should be done, but it is appropriate that all parties should be represented in it. This is non-political. It is a Canadian venture and I commend the secretary and the members of the party who are going to Italy. It is not only right but fitting that Canadians remember the Italian campaign.

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● (1015)

INCOME TAX ACT

Hon. David Anderson (for the Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-27, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Income Tax Application Rules, the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Business Corporations Act, the Excise Tax Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and certain related acts, be read the first time and printed.

(Motion deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

PETITIONS**SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

Mr. Ray Speaker (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition on behalf of 187 constituents from Lethbridge.

They present the petition requesting that Parliament not amend the Canadian Human Rights Act or the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include the undefined phrase sexual orientation.

I so present the petition to Parliament.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

The Deputy Speaker: Are the questions allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): I wish to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 33(2)(b) because of the ministerial statement Government Orders will be extended by nine minutes.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

SUPPLY**ALLOTTED DAY—CONVERSION OF MILITARY INDUSTRIES**

Mr. Réal Ménard (Hochelaga—Maisonnette) moved:

That this House condemn the government for its unacceptable delays in developing and implementing a genuine strategy for the conversion of the defence industries to civilian production, which would save and create new jobs in high technology sectors.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the House that if the Official Opposition has felt necessary to use its allotted day to deal with industrial conversion mechanisms and propose solutions, as the government will see, it is because we believe there really is a feeling of urgency. The reason why I raise this feeling of urgency is that we remember that 10,000 jobs have been lost in Quebec in the sole sector of defence material production and in the sector of arms production and that as many and even more have disappeared in the rest of Canada, where it is said that 47,000 jobs have been lost since 1987.

Despite the stagnation of markets, despite the urgency of the situation, the government is making no progress. This government, in spite of its commitments, and we will come back to that, has given no real indication of its will to go ahead in that