

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 13, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

NATIONAL HERITAGE

MAINTENANCE OF HISTORICAL HOUSE IN RIDGEWAY, ONT.

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, the small Village of Ridgeway, where I make my home, was an area of great strategic importance during pre-Confederation days. One hundred and eighteen years ago on June 2, 1866, 54 years after the war of 1812, Ridgeway was not a peaceful little hamlet. Rather, it was the location of a fierce battle between the Canadian forces and the Fenian raiders from the United States of America.

A small house on a tract of land then owned by the Teal family, and recently restored by the Bertie Historical Society, was used as a field hospital to care for the wounded and dying soldiers. Bullets which missed their mark embedded themselves in the walls of the house, and are still visible. Women and children took shelter in a marsh just west of this house.

In 1975 the Bertie Historical Society undertook the project of restoring and moving the building. Now that this preliminary groundwork has been laid, the society would like to see the property taken over and maintained by the federal Government as an historical national site and park. Since my riding is experiencing high unemployment, and in light of the potential for job creation involved in the construction of a national historical site, I would ask that the Minister responsible for Parks Canada look into this matter immediately. I look forward to hearing from him, and providing more details.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

NEED FOR PRESENTATION OF FACTUAL INFORMATION

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the recent study based on the survey of 1,100 Metro students varying in age from 12 to 18 shows that 10 per cent admit to being troubled by war fears, 28 per cent wonder whether or not they will marry and have families, 24 per cent indicate the desire to live for the present and forget the future. It is my concern that the very

organizations wanting to prevent nuclear holocausts repeatedly and graphically present the horrors of such a conflict to the point of saturating the mind of the young and old without presenting factual information that gives some hope for the future, information such as the fact that, for 39 years, living with the nuclear arsenal has prevented wars in Europe, that there are powerful peace initiatives that have been activated in response to the threats of war associated with the escalation of nuclear material, and that, despite prevailing mistrust between the major powers, both are cognizant of the potential global destruction of a nuclear war between them and will not start one. This is not to say that nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists do not pose a frightening possibility of a localized nuclear explosion.

Young people are courageous and intelligent and, if given balanced information and views, not only can they handle a threatening situation, but they will make innovative suggestions for ongoing peace initiatives.

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CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

CANADIAN HOME AND SCHOOL AND PARENT-TEACHER FEDERATION—REMOVAL OF PATRIOTISM CLAUSE FROM CONSTITUTION

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation is a long established organization in Canadian educational circles. Its objectives have focused on improving the educational system. At a recent annual meeting held in Winnipeg, the Federation removed the following declaration from its constitution:

—to foster high ideals of citizenship and patriotism and to promote, through educational means, international good will and peace.

It has come to my attention that this clause was removed because of threats from Revenue Canada that, if the clause were to remain, the organization would be under threat of deregistration as a registered charity. Much of this was raised in an article in *The Winnipeg Sun* by Peter Warren, investigative reporter.

It has come to our attention that the reason for Revenue Canada using this kind of threat is that patriotism is seen as being too political. I ask this House why is the Liberal Government, through the agency of Revenue Canada, arguing that citizenship and patriotism should not be taught, and that those who do will be deregistered by Revenue Canada?