

workplace. Provincial Governments along with the federal Government, the labour movement and the employees themselves have to be more aware and continue to be on top of these things as time goes on. Many people have been hurt in ways that are not at first evident. It may be nine, ten or fifteen years down the road before something shows up.

We still have a long way to go and we must continue to work hard until we reach the ultimate goal of a hazard-free workplace.

The labour movement will today be laying a wreath at 1.30 p.m. at the Vincent Massey Park in Ottawa. This ceremony will take place at the monument erected for the workers killed, injured or disabled in the workplace. Many of us have lost loved ones through accidents that could have been prevented. Today we mourn these losses.

I say to you, Sir, and I say to this House that over the years, through hard work on behalf of all workers, labour unions and Governments across this country, the accident rates have been reduced.

I join today with all the others in this House by saying, let us continue to work harder to see if accidents can be reduced further and perhaps eliminated from our society.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the New Democratic Party in observance of this special day in memory of workers who have been hurt or killed on the job.

Last year Members will recall that I had the honour to introduce a Private Member's Bill to designate every April 28 as a national day of mourning for persons killed or injured in the workplace. It was the New Democratic Party's hope that this Bill would have become an instrument by which today would have been set aside by all Canadians as a day of remembrance for our nation's workers. However, the Bill was not passed by the House of Commons.

On April 11 of this year, I reintroduced that legislation. I call upon all Members of Parliament, especially government Members and the Minister here, to support this Bill again when it comes to the floor of the House. If this Bill passes then year after year, April 28 will serve as a day on which we can all recognize the staggering number of people injured or killed while at work. It will

also recognize the great need for a new emphasis on health and safety in the workplace.

As the Minister has just said and as the statistics note, deaths from workplace injuries averaged nearly 1,000 persons per year. Approximately one million Canadians are injured annually in the workplace and over 600,000 of those injuries every year are disabling.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, deaths occur because of exposure to unhealthy working environments, causing approximately 1,000 deaths each year. However, we do not have the statistics because such deaths go largely unreported and uncompensated, but it is likely that deaths from unhealthy working environments exceed those from physical injuries. But despite the statistics, many Governments in Canada are actually weakening health and safety rules. Many Governments in Canada are relaxing these rules and deliberately eroding the enforcement of safe working conditions for Canadians.

The increase of part-time workers, people who are not properly trained and who have only a minor attachment to the workplace, is also creating more injuries at the work site. For these reasons, I believe that we need to have national legislation in this area, that we need to have a focus on workplace safety, and that we need to have a greater emphasis within the Department of Labour to ensure that we save lives and prevent injuries for our nation's workers.

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• (1300)

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PRESENTATION OF TENTH REPORT OF DELEGATION TO BUDAPEST CONFERENCE

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(1), I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the tenth report of the official parliamentary delegation which represented Canada at the Interparliamentary Conference in Budapest, Hungary, from March 13 to March 18.

I take pleasure in advising this House that under the capable chairmanship of Senator Nathan Nurgitz all our Canadian delegates made significant contributions to the proceedings, at all levels of activity, in debate, as presenters, as intervenors and as chairpersons of various committees.