

Inquiries of the Ministry

good fortune to visit General Crerar's headquarters and, if I remember correctly, slept one night in his trailer out in the field. He was a courteous host, and I was very proud of the high morale of the troops who fought under his command.

This is a well deserved tribute which the government is paying to one of the great soldiers of the last war and I am sure, in accepting this honour, he is doing it on behalf of all the men who fought under his command.

I want to thank the Prime Minister for the honour which is being paid to Mr. M. J. Coldwell, who was the national leader of the C.C.F. and today is honorary president of the New Democratic party. As one who came into the House of Commons with Mr. Coldwell in 1935, as one who has long been a close, personal friend and associate of his, I deeply appreciate this honour which is being conferred upon him.

Mr. Coldwell was a man of peace. I think the Prime Minister was in error in saying he was a veteran of the first world war; I do not think he was. During the years immediately preceding the war he was one of those who advocated that the free nations of the world should take collective action against nazis and fascist aggression, and when the war came he gave his support in this house and throughout the country in the struggle to establish the kind of freedom upon which we could build a social democratic world. All who love and respect Mr. Coldwell will, I am sure, be grateful for the well deserved honour which the government has conferred upon him.

[Translation]

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, 20 years after the landing in Normandy, it is appropriate to make a pause to pay a tribute to the army, air force and navy men who fought in that French zone.

On this occasion I would like to recall the memory of the Chaudière regiment which was the first to land in Normandy, where many of our French Canadian fellow citizens from the province of Quebec were covered with glory.

As the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) said, we sent our troops to protect a way of life which we believe to be the best and especially to guard against another system which we felt was the opposite of the one prevailing here.

I hope those years of war during which we fought against nazism will not come back,

but if we have to fight against another totalitarian system, socialism, we will be able to do so by peaceful means, without being forced to take up arms in order to keep on benefiting by the system we always had and appreciated on the American continent.

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the landing of the allied forces in Normandy, it is appropriate indeed to join the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) in paying tribute to all those who took part in that landing and who probably lived through one of the most dreadful and longest days of the century, giving their all for the triumph of civilization in the western world.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to add my wishes to those the Prime Minister and the members who spoke before me addressed to General Crerar, whose memory remains unforgettable to those who fought under his command in Normandy, France and Germany, and to Mr. Coldwell, who sat formerly in this house and proved to be a very able parliamentarian, for the honour bestowed upon them today.

[Text]

GENEVA CONVENTIONS

APPROVAL OF CONVENTIONS FOR PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved the first reading of Bill No. S-25 (from the Senate), respecting the Geneva conventions, 1949.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN FLAG

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF FORM LETTER REPLIES BY PRIME MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I wonder whether the Prime Minister would table copies of the form letters under the heading "Prime Minister" and "Premier Ministre" and over a photocopy of his signature, which are going out to Canadians who communicated with him as Prime Minister of Canada with regard to their views on the flag.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I have been getting a good many thousands of letters, and I am sure the right hon. gentleman would not want me to table the replies to all of them.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No; the form letters.