

this issue and a much larger audience because we are about to give what I consider to be one of the best citizenships in the world to this person.

On August 4, 1982, my esteemed colleague, the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger), also raised the question of Raoul Wallenberg. Since then, no one has asked to give him Canadian citizenship. Now I come to the words of a very important, fine gentleman, our own Mr. Speaker. I would like to render him homage and read part of what the Hon. Member for Don Valley West (Mr. Bosley) said on May 17, 1984, as recorded on page 3822 of *Hansard*, in the first mention of offering Raoul Wallenberg Canadian citizenship:

Mr. Speaker, the League for Human Rights of the B'nai Brith, supported by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Swedish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese-Canadian National Council, and the Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'homme, have asked the Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal) to declare Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of Canada, and I wish to add my voice in support.

He went on to speak quite well and quite extensively on the matter.

Today my colleague went second. I would like to render him homage because on April 15, my colleague went first by introducing Bill C-233, an Act to proclaim Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of Canada and requesting his return to freedom. This motion was immediately followed by that of an esteemed colleague of ours, the Hon. Member for Laval, who on April 18, 1985, suggested the same thing. That was the first time we started talking about honouring a foreigner as an honorary Canadian citizen.

I make no secret of the fact that I would have preferred to send the entire matter immediately to a committee of the House with instructions for the committee to inform us of how in the future we should proceed in honouring honorary Canadian citizens and to recommend as one of the first, if the committee so wished, Mr. Raoul Wallenberg. Some people, in their wisdom, decided to proceed otherwise. That is why there was a slight confusion earlier in the debate when we had to ask consent of the House to withdraw a bill, consent of the House to withdraw another Bill, consent of the House to introduce something that could only be introduced at the end of December and consent of the House for something that would have to be introduced again at the end of December. I went along with that, but I would like to be on record, for the benefit of colleagues of mine who may still have some doubt, that I believe very strongly that one of the greatest sicknesses that must be fought continuously is anti-Semitism in the world. If Raoul Wallenberg was able to do what he did, it is because there were people called Nazis who in their fury wanted to dispose of a certain group of people known as those of the Jewish faith. I believe this must be denounced and for that reason, Raoul Wallenberg could qualify as one of the first honorary Canadian citizens.

Having said that, I would like to repeat that I want to know something of which only the House Leader and my two colleagues could inform me. Is this the way we will proceed in the future? When I am not a Member of the House of Commons, others will need to know how to proceed when they

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want to honour someone as an honorary citizen of Canada. The way to proceed would be to present Bills or motions and to ask for the generous consent of all Members of the House for the great qualification which some people may have in order to proclaim them honorary citizens.

● (1730)

I repeat that I do not oppose the motion which is before the House. I think it would be impossible for me to oppose it, although in reading it I find it difficult to understand why one would want to honour someone by including certain of the divisions which may have taken place. Some people say Raoul Wallenberg is still alive, which is mentioned in the Bill. I also do not think it is necessary to talk about the Soviet Union in a Bill which proposes to honour someone in Canada. To say what he has done would have been sufficient and positive. The anti-Soviet sentiment in the Bill is not my style. I believe we must keep the door open in respect to talks between the two big powers.

If it is true that Raoul Wallenberg is still alive, that he is in prison and that the Soviets know his whereabouts, then there are many ways in which to honour him other than the way which is proposed. However, I am not the master of this place. Each Member has his own way in which to proceed. This is not my way.

I would like to conclude by saying again that tonight I have been asked by Members: Is it the first time we will have a Canadian citizen—

[*Translation*]

I would like to tell the House that what we are now doing is to honour someone whose actions will be described tomorrow in the newspapers and to honour him not only as an honorary Canadian, but as the first ever honorary citizen of Canada.

[*English*]

There are only two honorary citizens of the United States. The Americans have used this great gesture only twice. The first time was to proclaim Sir Winston Churchill an honorary citizen. Of course, to me, that concept is universal in the western world. The second time it was utilized was to honour Raoul Wallenberg.

I hope my two colleagues who have proposed this Bill are aware of the hearings which took place before a subcommittee on human rights, part of an international organization connected with the committee on foreign affairs of the House of Representatives in the United States. A person who was saved in Hungary by Raoul Wallenberg when he was 15 years of age later became a congressman in the United States Congress. He is a Congressman for the State of California. He was very diligent in his representations with respect to Raoul Wallenberg. President Reagan signed a Bill with respect to proclaiming Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen.

I was asked several months ago how we in Canada can honour Mother Theresa in a very concrete way for the great work she does. She is alive. We sometimes prefer to honour those who are dead. However, we do not know whether or not