

*International Peace and Goodwill Day Act*

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak since we are debating the motion of the Hon. Member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Scott) as opposed to the Bill originally proposed by the Hon. Member for Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington (Mr. Van-koughnet), although I am pleased to speak to either one of the two issues. Both will do precisely the same thing.

I want to congratulate the Member for Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington for moving this motion and presenting this idea to the House of Commons. I hope the House adopts this motion as a matter of policy. It is not partisan in nature. Most of all my hope is that the matter does not die on the Order Paper.

We do many things as a House of Commons in Private Members' Hour. Very many valuable issues are raised by this process on occasion. Sometimes the issues that are raised in Private Members' Hour are more partisan than others. Either the Government or the Opposition uses the occasion to talk the Bill out, a procedure we use to put a Bill at the bottom of the list. This effectively kills the Bill because it has been talked out of the House. We do not want to do that with this issue. Generally, I hope, we would not do that with any issue. Be that as it may, the Bill we are discussing now is fundamental to all of us in terms of asserting the authority and supremacy of Parliament and enhancing the role of the private Member in this non-partisan issue. Most fundamental of all, we are discussing world peace.

I congratulate the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) who said so eloquently in his remarks that many times we miss the point when we are discussing issues which are somewhat trivial when you compare them to the issue we are discussing today. The symbolic gesture that we are attempting to pose as Canadians to the rest of the world is the special place in our hearts for peace and disarmament.

We know we have that place in our hearts and we have had it all along. The role we have played as peacemakers during the 1950s, during the Suez crisis and the other United Nations peacekeeping forces in which we have participated is testimony to the fact that we are very much interested in those kinds of issues. The initiative of Mr. Trudeau in the last year or so prior to his departure from office in his world-wide attempts to promote peace is noted by all of us, and other Prime Ministers and leaders of this country have done these things throughout the ages.

We remember Canada's participation in both World War I and World War II where we distinguished ourselves. We have worked hard at various international forums to ensure those kinds of atrocities would never happen again.

● (1630)

As sad as those incidents were then, a war today would be far more catastrophic than what occurred during those wars. Not long ago we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima. The time we take today to remember this event is indeed time well spent and reminds us of how important it is to have peace. Over 200,000 lives

were destroyed in August of 1945. Needless to say, the bomb exploded that day would be miniscule when compared with the fire power of the world today. It has been estimated that the nuclear powers now have enough capacity to destroy our planet 40 times over. If it were desirable—and of course it is not—to have enough to destroy it even once, one really wonders what is the purpose of having 40 times that capacity to start with. This is happening at a time when many children on the face of the earth are dying of starvation. We are spending almost \$2 million every minute of every hour of every day on armaments generally. When we know that only a small percentage of the interest on that money could totally alleviate world starvation, we have to speak more about the kinds of issues which the Hon. Member for Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington brought to our attention.

J. Robert Oppenheimer, known as the father of the bomb, recalled thinking of words from a Hindu book and said:

I am become death, the shatterer of worlds.

It is important for us to remember that today and to take every action we can as legislators to indicate our commitment toward peace.

Perhaps for some of my constituents Boxing Day is symbolic, but many of them do not even know what that day signifies. The only thing they know is that it is the day after Christmas. Be that as it may, it has an historical significance for some people. Of course in Britain, the day after Christmas represented the day, so I am told, that rich children gave the boxes from their toys to the poor children to play with. Perhaps the day could be symbolically important in terms of our assistance to people who are experiencing poverty. However, most people have long forgotten what Boxing Day stands for or stood for. Everyone knows how catastrophic a war would be. Everyone knows how important it is to play our small part as a nation domestically and to indicate internationally that we recognize at least one day as having that symbolic importance.

In conclusion, I congratulate the Hon. Member. I am happy to have had the opportunity to participate. With the measure which we are adopting today, we will at least go a small way in beating our swords into ploughshares.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It has been moved by Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth), seconded by Mr. Cadieux:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefor:

"Bill C-258, an Act respecting International Peace and Goodwill Day, be not now read a second time but that the Order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates."

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment to the main motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Scott, Hamilton-Wentworth) agreed to.