

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Members have indicated, it is a very serious issue and there are a number of speakers for the New Democratic Party who want to express a number of concerns but I think we can accommodate the concerns we would like to raise between now and one o'clock. Therefore, we give our unanimous consent to extend the sitting to allow adequate participation in the debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is agreed and so ordered.

Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, like the previous speaker from Newfoundland, I think when you hear of a tragedy to another nation and you have had a chance to have a relationship with individuals and with that nation itself by visiting it and coming to know it, indeed you have a very special feeling when the nation stands in turmoil as China stands tonight.

I can remember only too well sitting and talking with students in China at their universities in larger groups and in smaller groups in their dormitories. They were the same kind of questions, the same kind of young people you would find at any university in Canada with the same hopes and aspirations for their nation. In fact perhaps in China this group is more special because they have only been learning about freedom and liberty in the sense that we know it since 1978. As I listened to them talk about freedom and try to understand what freedom and democracy meant, as naive as they may have been, their hope and their enthusiasm for freedom and democracy and opportunity was contagious. As they told us about this, we started to feel the great hope of the young people for their China. One could feel the power of that new found liberty alone beaming from the eyes of these new young warriors of the reform generation. These young people were only 10 years old in 1978 when things started to happen in China. Each year of their life has been a new opening, a new growth and a new sign of hope.

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How my stomach turns tonight in revulsion as I think about how the bayonets of a ruthlessly led military have poked out the brightness of their eyes, the passions of their hearts and now treads on the spirit of China. It is a spirit that was beginning to feed the nation. It is a spirit that was beginning to industrialize the nation and provide new opportunities, a higher standard of living and

greater opportunity for all Chinese. That spirit has been trampled.

After the shock, the horror, the anger and the pain, we stand in the House tonight to cry out in frustration with the world: "Let the carnage stop now". I wish I could believe it would. As we speak tonight, let us honour the memory of those who died. Let us honour not just those who died but those who are dying in hospitals throughout China tonight. Let us honour not just those who are dying tonight in China but those who will die in the next days.

This is not the end. It is the beginning in China, hopefully to a renewed China.

In tribute to these martyrs let us turn away from the anger and passion of the moment and look ahead toward a stable China that is at peace with itself and within the world community. Condemn, yes. Sanctions, yes. Review our policy and express our outrage. Let us do all of these things, but do not burn all our bridges. We will need those bridges to help rekindle the brightness of their eyes and the passion of their hearts and their spirit.

A stable, free prosperous China must be the goal of this Parliament and the result we are trying to project from this debate. If we are to be part of that, while we condemn those who have caused or condoned these atrocities, we must also buttress the bridges of those friends so many of us in this House and across the world have started to make inside China. They need our moral support and our strength now like they have never needed it before. We need a strong free China restored in order that peace and prosperity will prevail throughout the entire region.

Two weeks ago we welcomed Wan Li, the chairman of the National People's Congress. We talked with him and his group of Parliamentarians about reform, about hope for their nation.

Tonight, many of us, as members of the Canada-China Parliamentary Association, have been invited not to be here tonight but to be at the Chinese embassy with the ambassador and his staff to celebrate another in-road, the establishment of the Canada-China Parliamentary Association.

When he phoned me this morning in Vancouver and we talked about the reception tonight, I was quite angry. I had been up watching the news and I saw these things