

over, the present building suffers from drastic changes in temperature and humidity and from serious deficiencies in access arrangements for artifacts and visitors, making it unsuitable for a museum. Its heritage status and the loss of adjacent land would make renovation and substantial expansion very difficult and expensive.

Vimy House and the bus maintenance and repair shed converted to a museum storage and workshop facility in 1983 also have serious deficiencies, such as the threats posed to stored artifacts by the pressurized steam and water pipes overhead and by the skylights which expose collections to excessive sunlight and contribute to rapid temperature and humidity fluctuations. The skylights also pose a security risk to stored artifacts, in particular to the small arms and war art collections. However, correction of these deficiencies would be much less difficult and expensive than those necessary for the museum building itself because of the nature of the structure.

● (1550)

The museum is, quite literally, run on a shoestring by a Corporal's Guard. At the time the development plan was drafted, which was in 1987-88, the museum's operating and maintenance budget was \$462,000, exclusive of salaries, benefits and other costs such as security and administrative support provided by the Museum of Civilization. A similar institution, the Australian War Museum, which has a similar mandate but serves a smaller population, was found to have an operating and human resource budget more than six times the size of the Canadian museum's budget.

Looking at the budgets of the two institutions in more detail, even more glaring differences can be found. In the vital field of conservation of collections the Canadian museum budget was \$85,800 and the Australian budget was \$672,323.

The whole budget of the Canadian museum for communicating, including costs of national service, education, publicity, exhibitions and publishing, was slightly under \$113,000, whereas the Australian budget for public programs only was \$296,659.

The Canadian War Museum was found to be seriously understaffed. Its human resources were limited to 27.5 person-years, while the development plan found that 76 staff members were required to adequately look after the collections and to present exhibitions of these artifacts to the public. The researcher gathered this information from the people working in the museum.

The lack of sufficient staff is most acutely felt at the level of curator, assistant curator, conservator, technician—those responsible for documenting, preserving and restoring the museum's collection. Although less pressing in terms of the deterioration of the collection, there is a need for substantially more staff to upgrade the public programs function. More exhibition designers, interpretive officers, technicians and support staff would be needed to maintain the quality of current exhibitions and plan new ones.

Honourable senators, I will not deal with the recommendations of the development plan. However, I have put on the

record the status of the Canadian War Museum, which should be an embarrassment to Canada.

I should like to commend Senator Robertson for dealing with the bill and referring on a number of occasions to my interest in the War Museum. If we believe that our Canadian mission of a truly proud museum is to share in the remembrance of and to serve as a memorial to those Canadians lost in or as a result of war, and if we believe that we must continue to examine the war and war-related history of Canada and its effect upon Canada and Canadians, then we must make every conscious effort to ensure our military history is preserved in a war museum of which all Canadians can be proud.

Honourable senators, I have no objection to the passage of the bill, but this is only a reminder of the amount of work that has to be done in order to do what we are responsible for in Canada.

Senator Robertson: As Senator Marshall has noted, there was a great deal of discussion in our committee regarding the War Museum. We were sorry that Senator Marshall was unable to attend those meetings. However, I might suggest to Senator Marshall that the staff of the museum and the staff of the department would be pleased to attend a meeting of his subcommittee on Veterans Affairs or a meeting of the Social Affairs Committee to go through this completely and tell him the plans they have for the future expansion of this very valuable resource to our Canadian civilization.

● (1600)

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

PRIVATE BILL

EASTERN SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA—THIRD READING

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government) moved the third reading of Bill S-11, to restructure the Eastern Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America under the name of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACT

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz moved the third reading of Bill C-31, to amend the Governor General's Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

[Translation]

ROYAL ASSENT

NOTICE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that the following communication had been received: