

Remembrance Day

for unity in our nation, not as English or French or any other race but as proud Canadians.

To this end, we must dedicate ourselves today because we must continue to believe in peace and freedom and because we will continue to remember them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party I join with the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) and with the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall) in noting that tomorrow is Remembrance Day and that we do well to pause and reflect on its meaning.

I should like to emphasize that what we do on a day such as tomorrow is to remember actual persons who paid the supreme sacrifice or who willingly gave everything they had. In that connection I am sure all members of the House will join with me in paying special tribute to the services rendered by the two previous speakers, the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): In recognizing their service in World War II we are recognizing the service of all those in all the wars in which this country has been involved, and we pay tribute to that service.

I may say that the minister also brought this matter home to me in a rather personal way when he read a message left by a Canadian infantry sergeant who perished outside Ortona in the latter part of 1943. I say that because it so happens that a close relative of mine, a Canadian infantry private, perished in that same area in the same year. These are the people we are thinking of today, not some vague unknown mass, but actual humans who gave their lives and who served, and it is appropriate that we remember them.

Sir, I am very conscious of the traditions that apply to statements on ceremonial occasions. I am conscious of the niceties that we observe, and, while this is not an occasion for argument or for making points, like the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe, I wish we were remembering those who died and accordingly their survivors more concretely. I wish we were remembering those who lived and paying tribute to their service by something more than the words we are uttering today and the ceremonies in which we shall participate tomorrow.

There is a need to deal with certain matters respecting our veterans, such as the amount of the disability pension and what we do for their widows as well as others who have been forgotten. I would have felt much happier participating in these remarks today had the agenda for this session included a commitment by the government to deal with some of these matters that are unfinished business so far as our veterans are concerned. I hope by saying that on this occasion, whether or not it is appropriate, will help to convince the government that something ought to be done about these matters in this session

[Mr. Marshall.]

of parliament. In any case, we welcome the fact that we have these few moments in which to remember those who died, and those who served and are still with us. In the tradition of Remembrance Day, we say from our hearts, we shall remember them.

● (1417)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Charles-Eugène Dionne (Kamouraska): Mr. Speaker, I am quite pleased to join the members who have so eloquently spoken about the bravery of those who fought during the wars which caused deep concern throughout Canada and created gaps in many families. I know that November 11 evokes the memory of a painful past, of Canadians of all ethnic origins who fought side by side and died together. They are resting together in the cemeteries of the various countries which they helped to liberate. Canadians in every region of the country should pay tribute to their memory by trying to improve living conditions in Canada.

We need understanding and mutual respect as we need to feel united. The poppy which we are wearing reminds us of that feeling of fellowship experienced during the war. It also suggests to us the grand task to be performed in close co-operation—to build a united and strong Canada. The Canadians who died believed in a better future. It rests with each of us to direct our efforts in that sense. We all tend to forget that in 1914 and 1939 two world wars covered Europe and Asia with blood and millions of lives were lost. Thank God, each time our country was spared, but some of our relatives and friends did get killed on the various battlefields. Indeed, each time the Canadians crossed the Atlantic and displayed bravery and courage. Some of them were even great heroes.

But those heroes and their feats of arms are a thing of the past. Somehow, we tend to forget too readily the sacrifices made during that period of our history.

On November 11, let us at least have a thought for those who were killed in action, for those who were massacred senselessly, for the innocent victims of bombings. Remembrance Day should make us aware that those victims gave all Canadians who would follow them a further cause for pride.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PROPOSED REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, in view of the endless series of allegations of illegal acts and the difficulty which the McDonald Commission will have in meeting those quickly and swiftly, and because of the crucial