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much of eastern Asia. But while that history and culture are well-known and strong, they are full of strife. It is a history that is full of conflict, foreign invasion and foreign imposed conflict that has led to much hardship, not the least of which has been in the last 80 years.

Despite that, they are a people who are dedicated to their families, who love and cherish their children, a happy people, a people that love fun, jokes, that love to play games and as my friend my Hamilton East said, a terribly inquisitive people, a people of great searching for knowledge, for education, a people who want nothing more than the ability to make their own decisions, to have discretion in their lives and to have the responsibility for those decisions. While there has been some economic reform in China, there has not been the political reform that is so essential to reinforce it. Sadly we in North America have had a picture painted of that great country that I am afraid is inaccurate.

Perhaps if I might be a bit pejorative, the American media has painted a picture of a country that has not come as far as our friends to the south would like perhaps, but it is a country that would like to come that far some day. I am particularly concerned when I think of the people of Shigatze in Tibet that had 20,000 monasteries and today has 34 as a result of the Cultural Revolution. There are people who walk hundreds of kilometres to observe their religious practices in a society that does not understand the Chinese, the regime that has been imposed upon them. The Chinese do not understand the lamism of the Tibetans. We have seen death and bloodshed.

My friend has talked about the students in Shanghai who walk up to any foreigner and say hello, how are you, where are you going, what are you doing, what is your name, are you alone, who are your friends. I think also of a very old man who came up to me in a park in Shanghai and said, you are going the wrong way. In a park on a sunny morning at 11 o'clock there is no wrong way but this man wanted to speak English. He had not spoken English for 20 years. He was taught English by a forestry company and he spent 15 years working for an agency

relocating Jews who were in Shanghai after the second war. All he wanted to do was talk to someone from outside to learn more.

I spent four days on a boat going from Muhan to Chong King and for two of those days I was the only non-Chinese on the boat of 800 people. The curiosity of the people that came to watch this not terribly slim, blond, bearded, left-handed foreign devil use chop sticks—all there was was curiosity and an urge to know. They wanted to know why I did not wear two pairs of pants like everybody else wore against the cold. They wanted to know what they could about Canada, anything they could find out. I spoke very little Chinese and they spoke no English, but in two days there was a remarkable exchange of information.

The spirit of those people despite the state, and perhaps in spite of the state, wants to move ahead in terms of knowledge, in terms of understanding. They are an inventive people who know that with their own resources can make their lives better and better for their children. What we have seen in the last three or four days is a repression of that spirit. If that spirit is what is broken, then China, and I would say the world, would be the losers for it. If that spirit if not rekindled and supported by the Members of this House, the people of Canada, the people of the western world, we cannot expect them to come on their own. This motion and the sentiments of all Members of this House bring that moral support that is so essential.

In closing, I spoke a few moments ago with an American friend who taught for a year in Shanghai. At the end of the phone conversation, he said to me, the old leaders used their benchmark as having participated in the long march. The new leaders will comment that they were in Tiananmen Square.

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, because of the severity of the debate and the intenseness of the debate and the seriousness of the topic, many Members of Parliament from all three Parties want to take part in the debate. I think that you will find that we have unanimous agreement to extend the sitting to 1 a.m.

Mr. Boyer: Mr. Speaker, speaking for the government side, we give our unanimous consent to permit all Members who wish to speak until 1 a.m. the opportunity to do so.