

HUMAN RIGHTS

CASE OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. On Tuesday of this week the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) put forward a motion under Standing Order 43 regarding the release of Soviet dissident, Anatoly Shcharansky. Regrettably, that motion did not receive unanimous consent.

Since, however, the House has in the past unanimously agreed to resolutions concerning Mr. Shcharansky's freedom, and since it might be construed by certain countries that what happened on Tuesday was a weakening of the resolve of this House that Mr. Shcharansky be freed, I move, seconded by the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett) and the hon. member for Parkdale-High Park (Mr. Flis):

● (1115)

That Mr. Shcharansky's case in particular, and that of Soviet dissidents in general, be brought to the attention of the signatories to the Helsinki Agreement, and particularly to the attention of the Soviet Union at the Madrid Conference next week, by the Canadian delegation.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Moved by Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands) and seconded by Miss Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):

That Mr. Shcharansky's case in particular, and that of Soviet dissidents in general, be brought to the attention of the signatories, especially the Soviet Union, to the Helsinki Agreement at the Madrid Conference next week by the Canadian delegation.

Motion agreed to.

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[Translation]

REMEMBRANCE DAY

TRIBUTES TO MEMBERS OF CANADIAN FORCES WHO SERVED IN WARTIME

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence and Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am proud to remind all hon. members of the House as well as all Canadians that next Tuesday, November 11, is Remembrance Day. As required by tradition, I should like to say a few words.

Most of us will return to our respective ridings to take part in official ceremonies commemorating Armistice Day, the purpose of which is to remind us that during two World Wars and the Korean conflict a great many men and women from every corner of the land put on Canadian military uniforms and wore them with the utmost distinction.

Remembrance Day

[English]

As usual, the Government of Canada will be holding a ceremony thousands of miles away at Vimy Ridge. It was there at Easter, 1917, that Canada showed the world what it was all about. The Canadian fighting in France came together for the first time as a single force and in less than a week performed a deed which other armies could not accomplish in three years. Successive generations of Canadians built on that reputation. Few gained the glory of Billy Bishop. It was sufficient to serve, enough to do one's duty to Canada. We owe our prosperity and freedom to those hundreds of thousands of unsung heroes.

These men and women fought, not for personal gain, not for glory of conquest; they fought for their homeland. This was their love. Duty was their creed. Truly they are Canada's heroes. I ask all Canadians to pause on November 11 and remember the thousands of our fellow countrymen and women who fell during the holocausts of the two World Wars and the Korean conflict to preserve our peace and our country.

[Translation]

Next Tuesday, when we pause with pride, let us reinforce our determination to emulate them in their generous deeds for Canada. Let us demonstrate on that day and in our way how proud we are of them. Let us demonstrate also, each and every one of us, that the faith they had in future generations was not unfounded, and that their sacrifices and sufferings were not in vain. We owe them that much.

[English]

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, as Progressive Conservative spokesman for veterans affairs, it is once again an honour for me to join in the tribute to our fallen comrades.

This is the sixty-second anniversary of the date on which the battle ceased on the western front. At that point in history, 62 years ago, people thought they had experienced the "war to end all wars", but as we know now, 21 years later war broke out again, to be followed by the Korean war and a series of smaller conflicts around the globe. Today we remember 100,000 war dead and they live again in the hearts and minds of Canadians everywhere.

I feel we should also bring to mind the veterans who returned from those wars and who are now suffering under the weight of rising prices and falling pensions.

We can do no more than pause and remember our war dead, but we have a wonderful opportunity in this country to do something positive for our returned veterans.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1120)

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, may we never fail to pause on Remembrance Day to recall how great is our debt to those who served our country on the field of battle in World War I, in World War II, in Korea and in the other conflicts in which we have been participants.