

Honourable senators, while I have no quarrel with the bill and I recognize that it will help the situation, it is long past the time when the museum should have been helped with a bit more effort and a little more recognition of what it means to Canada.

I should mention that the Special Committee on National Defence made two recommendations in its last report:

20. The Committee supports the Canadian War Museum and recommends that it be made autonomous from the Canadian Museum of Civilization, with a larger budget under its own control.
21. The Committee further recommends that the name of the Canadian War Museum be changed to the Canadian Museum of Military History, which more accurately reflects the actual content of the Museum's collection.

Now, honourable senators, I should like to put on record some of the extracts from a paper I had produced by the Library of Parliament Research Branch last October. Again, I apologize for the fact that I have not brought this matter to the attention of the Senate before now.

The Canadian War Museum opened its doors to the public in early 1942, at the height of World War II. Thus, although its collection dated back to 1880, it had taken over 60 years to find a permanent home and exhibition space for a Canadian war museum. Even then its accommodation consisted of a 115-by-48-foot shed refurbished at a cost of \$2,500.

I will skip the rest of the history. Throughout its history the Canadian War Museum has both benefited and suffered from its status as an odd "side-show" to a larger concern. Its original existence owed to the interest of some militia officers and the tacit support of militia headquarters. The gradual reemergence of its collection from storage was the result of the antiquarian curiosity of the Dominion Archivist at the time.

The association with the Dominion Archivist may also have assisted in the acquisition of, first, the Trophies Building and, later, the current premises on Sussex Drive. Both of the War Museum's parent organizations, the Dominion Archives and the Museum of Man (Civilization), respectively, have received new, prestigious buildings within the past 25 years.

For most of the time during which the new Museum of Civilization was being planned and built the War Museum was administered as one of its "divisions", such as the division dealing with history, or ethnology, or archaeology or whatever. Nevertheless, despite the importance of war in the development of most of Canadian civilization, no serious thought appears to have been given to physically integrating the War Museum into the Museum of Civilization's new accommodation. The excitement, difficulties and inevitable cost overruns involved in construction of the new museum absorbed the energies of the National Museum Corporation and senior officials of the then Museum of Man. There was scant time or money left over to meet even the basic needs of the War Museum.

This fact is acknowledged in the March 31, 1988, "Comprehensive Development Plan for the Canadian War Museum", prepared by the Museum of Civilization, the Museum of Man, and outside consultants:

The Canadian War Museum previously had 'divisional' status similar to the other scientific divisions of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The ability of the museum to make its case for resources and to develop its programs was extremely constrained in this structure. Indeed, it appears that the CWM during this period did not fare as well as other divisions and has a resulting legacy of secondhand equipment and general poverty. The preoccupation of the Canadian Museum of Civilization during this decade was with the planning of its new facility and this has only exaggerated the neglect.

There is some justice in the characterization of the War Museum as a "stepchild" of Canada's national museums.

Let me now deal with the current status of the Canadian War Museum. The development plan includes a systematic analysis of the condition of the War Museum and its capability of fulfilling its mission, which is given as:

- to share in the remembrance of, and serve as a memorial to, those Canadians lost in, or as a result of, war;
- to examine the war and war-related history of Canada and its effect upon Canada and Canadians; and
- to document Canada's continuing commitment to peace-keeping and the maintenance of international security.

The conclusions arrived at are simple. The present budget, staffing levels and accommodation are completely inadequate not only to fulfil the mandate of the museum but also to prevent the gradual deterioration of the existing collection. Increasingly, the museum is forced to turn down donations of valuable items because it does not have the resources to catalogue, store and preserve and restore them, much less the space or funding to exhibit them.

The collection consists of some 900,000 items ranging in size from small metals and pins through a valuable collection of war art, to examples of heavy ordinance, tanks, aircraft and so on. A conservative estimate would place its value at \$500 million. Despite the size and value of the collection, almost all of it must be kept in storage because of the inadequacies of the museum building at 330 Sussex Drive.

Senator Haidasz: Shame.'

Senator Marshall: The fundamental problem with the present building is that it is much too small and antiquated. The development plan estimates the present and future accommodation requirement of the museum at about 14,000 square metres, exclusive of collective receiving and holding areas.

The current museum building has just over 4,000 square metres available for exhibition and related activities. More-