

Interparliamentary Delegation Report

citizens who fought and survived on foreign beaches and also those who fought and died in the service of our country.

And when twilight comes and when day breaks, we shall remember them.

[English]

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I am pleased to join with the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees) and my colleague from the Official Opposition in reminding all Canadians of the importance of November 11, Remembrance Day.

While public attitudes about the observance of this special day have changed over the years, the significance of this day has not. At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, Canadians will pause at cenotaphs and places of work to remember the supreme sacrifice made by more than 110,000 men and women who fought for freedom and peace in two world wars, and in Korea.

Veterans, their families, friends and relatives of both lost loved ones and returning soldiers, sailors, and airmen, will recall special memories. We, too, will remember them and pray that war will never again happen.

To those veterans who returned home to begin life anew, we shall be eternally in their debt. We in this Party commend the Government for its non-partisan attitude and approach in working with all Members of the House to ensure an even better life for our 640,000 surviving veterans.

As we approach Remembrance Day, it is also important to remember that the day will come when we will be helping more widows of veterans than the total number of veterans themselves. Even now 30 per cent of all recipients of disability pension benefits, and nearly 40 per cent of those in receipt of War Veterans Allowance, are widows.

I bring those figures to the attention of the House as a reminder that Canada's debt to veterans will not be repaid in full when the last veteran passes away. The lives of tens of thousands of families were disrupted and perpetually affected by war. As Members of Parliament and concerned citizens, it will be our ongoing duty to provide help to those families.

● (1540)

The best testimonial we could give to those of whom we speak today would be to redouble our efforts to bring economic and social justice to all people, so that the conflicts which occur will be lessened and we bring about real peace in our world.

As we recall the deeds of those who have gone before us, we are reminded of the words of Rudyard Kipling, as inscribed on the War Memorial in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. They read:

From little towns in a far off land we came,
To save our honour and a world aflame;
By little towns, in a far land, we sleep,
And trust those things we won to you to keep.

We will remember them, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONPRESENTATION OF EIGHTH REPORT OF CANADA-EUROPE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 101, I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the eighth report of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands) moved:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, presented to the House on Thursday, May 28, be concurred in.

He said: I wish to make a few remarks in support of my concurrence motion. The report entitled "For Whose Benefit" was tabled on May 28 after more than a year's study of Canada's Official Development Assistance Program. The study was done by the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

The committee held extensive hearings across Canada at which a wide cross-section of non-governmental organizations, businesses, individuals, and government officials presented their views. The committee also travelled to Africa where we visited aid projects in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Senegal. It also travelled to Washington and New York for briefing sessions with officials from such organizations as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Program.

The report "For Whose Benefit" cannot pretend to be an exhaustive study, but it reflects the results of a major piece of work by a committee of the House. At this time I should like to express appreciation for the work of the staff in helping us with our hearings and with the presentation of the report.

I think it is important that all Hon. Members of the House recognize the very difficult job which many Canadians are doing in the field in helping to carry on Canada's development assistance program in all continents of the world. It is a difficult and complex process.