

*Veterans Allowance Increases*

ans Affairs Committee did in its unanimous report, that is, become completely partisan toward the cause of veterans. That is the type of partisanship that should not take second place to any feeling in this House. That is what is lost when speaker after speaker today stood up and talked almost exclusively for five or ten minutes about the committee being non-partisan.

This House of Commons and the Parliament of Canada has put into effect the best pension plan known to man. We were non-partisan in that regard. Do we think that the veteran who wants an adjustment in his pension, or the pension of a widow or child who is dependent upon war veterans allowance, cares about whether we are Liberals, Conservatives or members of the NDP as far as partisanship is concerned? This is just flying a false flag. We are going to flounder in the swampland unless we start to accept reality and appreciate it.

I wanted to contribute to this debate because the people who fought for the rights of this institution and the freedom of speech about which we talk are the very people who will become disillusioned if this Parliament of Canada does not during this session do something concrete about veterans' problems. We must do something for them through the pension plan, war veterans allowances or the Canadian Pension Commission. This commission has worked unceasingly for veterans. It is because I feel very strongly, even as a non-veteran, that I make these suggestions.

● (9:50 p.m.)

I listened to the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. MacRae) earlier this afternoon. He recited the pages of history that I used to read. He spoke about the battles he fought, about which I have read. The hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe contributed in a way that I will never understand, because I was too young. There is no deed or duty which I find more honourable to accept, and yet sometimes more difficult to discharge, than to try to help veterans who through a letter, through a personal relationship or through a phone call ask me as a member—as they ask all other members of this House—to do something for them.

Without reciting all the things I could recite about the unanimous recommendation of the committee, some parts of which are good, and parts of the white paper some of which are good and some bad, I suggest that we in this House—which is only an institution, one of many under attack today because we have lost touch with reality—say to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, with all sincerity, that if this House of Commons, being part of the Parliament of Canada, cannot in the next few days introduce on the floor of the House a bill that will put into effect all the words that have been spoken in unanimity this afternoon, we will lose faith with those who fought to protect this place.

I have heard the sincere Minister of Veterans Affairs stand up before and say many times that legislation would be introduced perhaps in the form of one bill or two bills. I do not care whether there are three bills, but let us move; let us keep faith with those who fought for us.

[Mr. Nowlan.]

[Translation]

**Mr. Jean-L. Rochon (Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, like those who preceded me, I should like to make a few remarks, with a non-partisan mind, on the motion of the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall).

Those who risked their lives, gave their lives or lost their health on the battlefields deserve well of their country, and we who sit in this House must not forget the sacrifices which they made in order that we might live in freedom, freedom which other nations envy us and which shows us more clearly than anywhere else what democracy really is.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I am taking part in this debate tonight is because in 1914 my father's brother set in Vimy ground the flag of the glorious 22nd; in 1944, his son landed on the beaches of Normandy. Today, he is a great disabled ex-service man. On his behalf, I should like to say that I join with the mover of this motion. I also join with those who demanded from the government the immediate adoption of adequate measures in this regard.

The hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe) reminded us this afternoon of everything the Canadian government has done for our veterans, their widows and families. A few minutes ago, I was listening to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Dubé) who spoke of the measures he intended to submit to his cabinet colleagues. I am sure he will know how to convince them to agree to what we want for those who have fought for liberty. I am also sure that in the very near future the government will do its duty towards them.

Mr. Speaker, after listening to the speeches made by those who spoke before me, I am reminded of something I read recently where the author says: "To live, to die for one's country, in blood, in mud, facing one's flag, this is beautiful, it is great, even noble, but there is something finer, greater and nobler than that and that is to live for an ideal". For us who know what freedom is, we live for an ideal: Justice and freedom. To whom do we owe it? To those who have given their life, like this cousin of mine who, for more than 20 years, has been sitting in a paraplegic chair.

On their behalf, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the mover of this motion and I am sure, as the Minister of Veterans Affairs said a moment ago, that we will know where our duty to these veterans lies.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is probably obvious that there have been some discussions arising from the fact that there are two or three more members who would like to make a brief contribution to this debate. I think it might be found that there is agreement to our moving into the late show at this point—there are just two speakers at that stage—and then resume this debate for a few minutes so that those who would like to make a contribution might have an opportunity to do so. The assurance given me is that these contributions would not be lengthy. I am speaking for members of other parties and