

Korean Armistice

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago the statement just made by the minister was delivered to me. I find it fit and proper that the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) should be leading a delegation of veterans to the scene of their former conflicts. I join with the minister in paying tribute to those valiant Canadians who lie in graves far beyond our borders. We pay tribute not only to the glorious dead but also to their fellow soldiers who returned home as members of our Armed Forces.

I think this points out and is further proof that Canada is willing to shoulder its share of the responsibility for maintaining world peace and in promoting world peace wherever there is potential trouble.

I trust that the minister will find that cemetery at Pusan, Korea, maintained in the same high degree of perfection that we found at the cemeteries in Italy, where I was privileged to travel with the minister a few years back. If that is not the case, I trust he will see that Canada makes every effort to have this cemetery looked after as it should be. Again, we in the official opposition join in paying tribute to our glorious dead who lie beyond our borders.

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour as a veteran of one war to pay tribute to the veterans of another war. Although only five years separated the signing of peace following the Second World War and the beginning of the Korean War, those wars were worlds apart in many ways. In some ways the Korean War was an indication that total war is impossible. That war, in which Canadians fought under the auspices and direction of the United Nations, could probably have been ended more quickly with the dropping of a nuclear bomb.

What is significant about that war is the fact that the nations of the world realized that the use of nuclear weapons was no way to end a war. This was recognition of the fact that it is no longer possible to have total war. That war dragged on, and there were many more casualties. Many of the sacrifices represented a double sacrifice. Many lives were lost during the course of the war, and many additional lives were lost because of our determination to avoid a nuclear holocaust. In that sense the Korean War was a watershed.

When peace finally came it was not total peace, just as it had not been total war. The lesson was quite clear. It is no longer possible in a world so interconnected to have total war or attain total peace. At some point nations have to come together.

It is a great honour for me to pay tribute to those who participated in the Korean War, and to wish the minister and his delegation well on their trip to the scene of these soldiers' heroism.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the minister who sent me copy of the statement he has just made to the House recalling to memory the participation of Canada in the Korean war during the '50s. In

[Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan).]

his statement, the minister mentioned that 516 Canadian troops died on the battlefield who are today buried in a cemetery the minister himself will visit sometime in July with a small delegation.

It is always with deep emotion that we evoke the memory of those Canadians who went away to fight on battlefields outside our land and who gave their lives to ensure the survival of the freedom we now enjoy. I think it is well to think of that occasionally, and to remember the participation of Canadians in the fight for our freedoms; to evoke it not so much for the people of our age but more specifically for the young who enjoy that freedom, and who at times abuse it, unaware, unfortunately, that those who came before them, some of whom were loved dearly, gave of themselves intellectually, financially and physically to guarantee that freedom.

I therefore take this opportunity to assure the minister of our co-operation on the occasion of this trip to Korea. I ask him to give a special thought to those Canadians. I know at least two whose names I remember, I can assure him that when he visits that cemetery our hearts will go with him remembering the fallen while at the same time asking Divine Providence, if it is not already so, to grant them real rest that is well deserved.

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● (1512)

[*English*]

INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT ACT

MEASURE TO OBIVIATE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-62, respecting the independence of parliament and conflicts of interest of Senators and members of the House of Commons and to amend certain other acts in relation thereto or in consequence thereof.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I realize that we do not often ask for an explanation of a bill on its introduction into the House by a minister, but I point out that Standing Order 68(2) provides for such a situation, as does citation 356 of Beauchesne's fourth edition. In view of the importance of this bill and the interest in the subject today, I believe the minister should be given an opportunity to give the House a brief explanation.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the suggestion made by the hon. member, but unfortunately the bill is so comprehensive in its nature that it would require more than a brief explanation. Therefore, and not to do an injustice to this work, I would like to suggest to the hon. member that he read the supporting material, which I will make available to him just as soon as the bill is given first reading.