

Adjournment Debate

training by the United States, and possibly other NATO powers, takes place across Canada from the Northwest Territories to the U.S. border.

As my colleague, the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly), so eloquently stated the other evening when he was presenting another Private Members' Bill, "Citizens are not reassured by the proliferation of arms; citizens are reassured by the reduction of arms", as noted by the recent welcome news that the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. have been successful in at least some measure of arms reduction. The argument that we can only be strong as we participate in increasing arms, because that will make our citizens feel secure, just does not wash either.

Today, there is an immediate action that the Government can take, an action that would send a strong signal that the country does not support the potential proliferation of nuclear trade. Currently, the United States is in the process of deciding whether to sign an agreement to transport plutonium dust over Canada's North. While this is reactor-grade plutonium, there will be enough plutonium on each flight—and it is estimated that there will be a flight every two weeks over 10 years—there will be enough plutonium to build 15 to 20 bombs, each one the equivalent of the Nagasaki bomb. Should this plutonium fall into terrorist hands, not only Canada's North but all of Canada and the world would be at risk. Canada must not participate even by default in such a potential horror. Should this agreement take place, 26 times a year this possibility will exist. Over 10 years the odds for hijacking or a crash, which would have equally devastating environmental effects, may also occur. We have only to say, "No".

Similarly, in the Arctic, as my hon. colleague from Spadina pointed out, despite proposals since 1964 to de-nuclearize the Arctic, about one-third of the nuclear submarines proposed by the Government will be sent there. It is considered that there will be an escalating effect of both militarization and nuclearization of the entire Arctic.

Canada has a proud history of peace-keeping. Through this motion we have the opportunity to be a part of peace-making.

Canada is certainly not a major world power in terms of our amount of arms and in terms of being a major physical deterrent to war. We are not one of the superpowers in that sense. However, we have shown through our history that we have been able through negotiation, through moral suasion, and now with this motion through action, to show that we do not support the proliferation of the nuclear race in any way, not only by not storing arms on our soil, which we do not do, but by not participating in any way in the production, the transport, or components—in any part of the nuclear race.

I believe that if the House supports this move, as many municipalities and regions in Canada have done, what we will see is much greater support by Canadians who want to be a

part of the peace-makers of the world and who do not want to join the nuclear race through any form of production of nuclear arms. We have an opportunity here to be a leader in this area. As I mentioned earlier, Canada has supported very strongly the fact that other regions such as Africa and Latin America have treaties with respect to the non-proliferation of nuclear arms. We can join them by taking such action and by reinforcing that leadership.

I urge all Members of the House to support this motion unanimously and to show the people of Canada that we will not participate in a war in any way, that we will make a strong statement and we will work for the preservation of the world and all its citizens.

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I think that this is a question that is not only important today but is one that has been important in the past. We have been able to arouse the interest of Canadians. We know that this is a priority subject.

I certainly had the opportunity to bring it forward in another forum in which there was a referendum held on whether or not people wanted their municipalities to be nuclear weapons free. There was an overwhelming response in favour of that referendum. We then asked all the municipalities across the country if they would put such an issue on a referendum. Over 60 per cent of the Canadian population spoke out on such a motion.

What we are looking at today is the ability of the House of Commons to support this motion and to bring forward a Bill which would say to Canadians, "We are leaders. We understand the nonsense of being able to destroy ourselves 40 times over. We recognize the fact that we have the ability of showing other countries that Canada is truly a peace-loving and peace-keeping country".

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. When debate is resumed on this motion the Hon. Member will have seven minutes.

[*Translation*]

The hour set aside for consideration of Private Members Business has expired.

[*English*]

Pursuant to Standing Order 36(2) this order is dropped to the bottom of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.