

dropped a few days later on Nagasaki. Whenever these super-powers talk about disarmament or nuclear arms control it is a continual build up. There has never been a de-escalation or reduction in terms of the numbers of nuclear arms.

Since I first introduced this Bill in Parliament, Mr. Speaker, I have had almost 5,000 signatures on petitions from people who support this concept within Canada. I have received hundreds of letters that people have written out of concern for such things as the announcement on December 12. On that day it was reported that the hands of the symbolic doomsday clock on the cover of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist* will inch one minute closer to midnight, moving from four to three minutes to midnight, suggesting that the world is nearer to a nuclear war than it has been in many, many years. One of the things I do agree with that the Prime Minister has said recently is that the world is a tinderbox. We are in a very delicate international situation. Whether the doomsday clock says that we are one minute, three minutes or half an hour to the final time, many people today say that it is very, very close and could happen at any time. Many people have seen films such as *If You Love This Planet* and *The Day After*. *The Day After* showed the effects of a nuclear attack on the United States of America. I think it was actually an underestimation of the effects of an all-out nuclear attack on our good neighbour to the south. This has heightened the awareness that people have. It certainly increased their concern for, if not their own safety, the safety of their families and generations that will follow them in years to come.

There have also been, Mr. Speaker, a number of other Bills that have come into different parliaments and in particular this Parliament. My colleague from Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Sargeant) has introduced a Bill under his own name to declare Canada a nuclear weapons free zone. The Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) has introduced a motion calling upon Canada to become a nuclear weapons free zone. These are not isolated situations. Going beyond the people who sit in this Parliament, we can look at Pope John Paul who, in his New Year's address, warned that a nuclear disaster is on the horizon. He appealed for a change of heart of mankind to create peace on earth rather than adding to the nuclear arsenals that we already have. People such as Pope John Paul and many activists who work toward reduction in nuclear arms and their eventual elimination point out the high cost of nuclear arms throughout the world. This money could be well spent on providing medical facilities, clothing, housing and education for all the people in the world who do not presently have such luxuries and the high standard of living that we in Canada and the rest of the North American continent have.

● (1710)

There has been a resolution in the provincial legislature by an MPP from Ontario, Richard Johnston, that was debated in the Ontario Legislature and called on that province to become a nuclear weapons free zone. There has also been a move within Canada to have many municipal governments take votes or hold referendums on nuclear weapons free zones or to voice opinions on world nuclear disarmament or the testing of

Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Act

the Cruise missile. For example, Mayor Harcourt from Vancouver stated in his Christmas message that the Vancouver City Council was symbolically making a gesture because of the feelings of people and their expression through the public ballot in that city that their city is a nuclear weapons free zone. He said that we must remove the threat of nuclear war. We must stop this squandering of wealth on the technology of death and use our resources to make this planet a better place for all of its citizens.

I think that is a fairly wide concern. At the same time many people ask how we can defend ourselves against aggressive forces that still exist in the world. I understand that we still must defend ourselves in this country and other places throughout the world because there are aggressive forces which continue to exist. A Bill such as this does not take away our conventional military weapons which I believe we need. Hopefully we will not need them some day but at the present time they are necessary and they do a very good job for us in Canada.

As a peacekeeper, Canada has a very good reputation and one which I think is hurt if we get into the nuclear arms race and allow the testing of the Cruise missile, the building of components for the nuclear weapons industry or the testing of any weapons of mass destruction or the components used in those weapons.

Since the second World War Canada has played a vital role in co-operating with the United Nations. In its capacity as a peacekeeping agency for the preservation of peace and promotion of international security, Canadians have participated in almost all United Nations peacekeeping operations to date. They have been in Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Korea, India, Pakistan, New West Guinea, The Congo, Yemen and Nigeria. One can see that our military forces have respect as a peacekeeper. Canadians also have respect as peacekeepers in this world. When our constituents travel to other countries of the world the greatest passport they can carry is a symbol that they are Canadian, such as a lapel pin, a flag or Canadian passport. We have a great amount of international respect compared to other countries in the world. I would suggest that even our Prime Minister has much more international respect than he does in some areas of Canada. I do not say that to his discredit or to the discredit of the House.

In terms of peacekeeping, Canadians even served in Viet Nam when participating in the international Commission for Control and Supervision. This took place especially in 1973 following the U.S. military withdrawal. There were 245 Canadian Armed Forces personnel involved in the supervision of that ceasefire. I believe that says something about the quality and respect for Canadians being involved in one of the greatest conflicts for people of my age group. It was one of the greatest conflicts which occurred in my lifetime.

I will not use up all of the time that was allocated to me. I believe it would be beneficial for Members of the House to honour my request to allow time at the end of this debate on Bill C-203 to allow the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) to have a motion of referral of this Bill to