

we have peace today. We survive because they were more concerned with their duties than they were concerned with their rights. Let the poppies be worn, let the parades march on, let the cenotaphs be visited, but let there be freedom and let there be peace.

The strength and unity of our country rests on its past. Let us remember this also in the days ahead.

We should remember, we must remember, we will remember.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina—Lumsden): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me as a veteran and as critic for veterans affairs for my party to take part in this tribute to our veterans who served in three wars.

I want to start by quoting Greg Hogan who is Secretary of the Royal Canadian Legion, Dominion Command, when he was asked: "What are the veterans trying to teach today's students?" He said that the Legion made that clear when it pointedly ignored the fiftieth anniversary of the start of the Second World War last September. He went on to say: "Veterans don't mark the beginnings of wars. They celebrate their end".

Colonel McCrea's poem says, in part:

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though
poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

We must continue to enlarge our efforts not to break faith. Ever improving benefits for veterans and their families is an important part of keeping that faith. Even more important in keeping faith is what we do to promote and work for disarmament and peace. Peace is more than just the absence of war. Maintaining peace wherever it is achieved is a never-ending struggle.

• (1020)

Developments in Europe and between the superpowers over the past few years have opened the doors wider than ever to huge reductions in arms, both nuclear and conventional. It is past time for Canada to take a more leading role in those efforts.

Supply

Canada can keep the faith with those who died by offering to be among the first to take part in the reduction of conventional forces in Europe. We must resist more than ever those who would have us keep up the outdated thinking of its "us" or "them", that forces must be kept as large as they are as some kind of a deterrence.

Mr. Speaker, to quote Matthew, chapter 5, verse 9, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said:

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

I submit to you, Sir, and to this House, equally blessed are the peacekeepers: for they carry on the keeping of the faith with those who served and died in those three wars.

I want to include in this tribute those many hundreds of Canadians who have served our country and the world so well with the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces.

Beginning some 25 or 30 years ago, Canada was among the first to play that peacekeeping role. We have served in the Middle East, we are still in Cyprus keeping the peace. We have just sent several hundred peacekeeping troops to Namibia, including 100 men and women from the RCMP, to assist a new nation that is having its first election and gaining its independence and freedom.

That to me, and I think to all hon. members, is the best way to keep the faith with those who died, by working harder and harder to keep the peace.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask hon. members to stand for one minute's silence.

[Editor's note: Whereupon the House stood in silence for one minute.]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—VIA RAIL

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte) moved: