

Tabling of Documents

Mr. Speaker, the men and women in this group are the last of a legendary generation of heroes. In a book he just published on the Battle of Vimy Ridge, author Pierre Berton describes the horror, suffering and bravery observed during a war in which Canada fought with such distinction.

Mr. Speaker, to all Canadians who have not yet had an opportunity to do so I extend an invitation to visit the imposing Vimy monument, the only silent testimony to the commendable conduct of these 11,000 valorous Canadians who will be resting for ever in that part of French soil.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we are only too acutely aware that these courageous men did not take part in what might have been the last war. Indeed, responding to the quest for freedom and the call of the nation, other Canadians had to leave their loved ones, pack up their meagre belongings, and face danger and death during World War II and the Korean conflict. The strategy and weapons used during these two wars may have been different from those of World War I, but the gravestones which mark the final resting place of the many Canadians buried overseas have remained unchanged.

Mr. Speaker, the Remembrance Day poster distributed by the Department of Veterans Affairs bears these words: "THEY GAVE US PEACE". It is true, and this alone is the best reason why, in silence, we should pray and thank God next Tuesday.

[English]

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I am honoured to join with the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees) and the spokesman for the Official Opposition in reminding Canadians that Tuesday, November 11, is Remembrance Day.

Over the years of membership in this House, and as a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, I have been pleased to note that political partisanship becomes less acute when it comes to matters affecting veterans and their families. This is as it should be because the achievement of our veterans has benefited us all. I commend the Minister on his willingness to listen to the views of veterans and those who represent them. Much progress has been made, but as the ranks of veterans decline, perhaps we could do more for those who remain. Many are of an age where they increasingly need assistance. In this regard, I certainly support the recent decision to provide immediate eligibility for the Veterans Independence Program to First World War veterans who would otherwise have had to wait until 1987 or 1988 to apply. These veterans now have an average age of 90 years. They have waited long enough, and I am glad it has now been recognized.

Our purpose today is not to glorify war. Those men and women whom we remember especially today, fought not for personal gain or glory. They served together to preserve democracy, liberty and freedom. Their sacrifice was such, that people everywhere said that never again should wars be

permitted. These were wars to end all wars, it was said. That was the hope of those who fought in those times. Achieving that goal would indeed be the finest remembrance we could offer to their sacrifice.

The recent meeting in Iceland between the leaders of the two most powerful nations in the world was an occasion for high expectations that good sense would prevail to bring an end to the arms race and resultant global tensions. Instead, as we all know, the negotiations broke down. The memorials to the war dead at Arlington, Leningrad and here in Ottawa, all sadly remind us of what can happen when nations stop talking to each other to resolve differences.

All nations should spare no effort to ensure that those military powers will continue their negotiations to de-escalate the arms race. It is a race that no one can win. This is also a moment when we should give thought to the thousands of our fellow beings in this world whose lives are ones of intense suffering. They look to us for assistance and relief and we in Parliament should not lose sight of the need to develop an economic order throughout the world which would eliminate poverty and want for all people, and to that end, eliminate the need for war.

They served and we remember them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: At this moment I would ask all Hon. Members to rise for a moment's silence.

[Whereupon the House stood in silence.]

• (1120)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

JUSTICE

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table in both official languages a copy of the 1985-86 annual report of the Department of Justice.

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LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF CANADA

TABLING OF REPORT NO. 29

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table in both official languages a copy of Report No. 29 of the Law Reform Commission of Canada. This report, Sir, deals with the subject of arrest.