CANADA

Debates of the Senate

1st SESSION • 39th PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 143 • NUMBER 65

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONOURABLE HOWARD CHARLES GREEN TO CANADIAN PUBLIC LIFE

Inquiry—Debate Continued

Speech by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Thursday, February 1, 2007

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 1, 2007

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONOURABLE HOWARD CHARLES GREEN TO CANADIAN PUBLIC LIFE

INQUIRY—DEBATE CONTINUED

Leave having been given to revert to Other Business, Inquiry, No. 19:

On the Order:

> Resuming debate on the inquiry of the Honourable Senator Murray, P.C., calling the attention of the Senate to issues concerning the faithful and exemplary service to Canada, during his entire adult lifetime, of the late Honourable Howard Charles Green of British Columbia.—(*Honourable Senator Comeau*)

Hon. Larry W. Campbell: Honourable senators, I rise today to express my support for the naming of a federal building in Vancouver after a distinguished Canadian, Howard Green. Other senators have spoken eloquently about the background of contributions made to not only Canada but the world by Mr. Green.

To summarize, he was a veteran of the First World War, a lawyer, a politician representing my riding of Vancouver-Quadra for seven terms, a minister of the Crown, and perhaps most important, an outspoken advocate of nuclear disarmament. In addition, I have spoken to his granddaughter, who naturally describes her grandfather as a loving, caring and wonderful person.

I have read and listened to the concerns of the various groups who have expressed their opposition to the naming of this building. I understand completely their sentiments and would suggest that their concerns have been addressed by previous governments.

As quoted by the Honourable Senator Segal:

> On September 22, 1988, the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, extended in the Parliament of Canada an elaborate, well-deserved, deeply articulated, heartfelt and sincere apology to all Japanese-Canadians and their descendants. It was an historic day, as was the foundation established to make that apology a living reality in perpetuity.

The statements made by Mr. Green during the Second World War are clearly racist in nature. However, I would suggest that we must take into consideration the era and the events of that time. Canada was at war and was living in an era of fear. This should not be seen as an excuse but rather a fact.

Who among us has led such a pristine life that we would be judged pure and clean of all wrongs? Who among us does not have an utterance or action that they regret? To quote from the Bible, ". . . let he who is without sin cast the first stone." It is unlikely that any building could be named after anyone if we used this test.

Mr. Green is more than deserving of having a building named after him. I urge the Minister of Public Works and Government Services to move forward and name the building the Howard Charles Green Building.

On motion of Senator Stratton, debate adjourned.