



CANADA

House of Commons Debates

**THE HONOURABLE JOE VOLPE, P.C., M.P.
MEMBER'S STATEMENT: NATIONAL HOLOCAUST MONUMENT
THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010**

Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago the first transports began arriving at death camps like Auschwitz, sites of the worst government-sponsored genocide in history.

A publicly funded national Holocaust monument in the National Capital is one way that all Canadians could be part of honouring the Holocaust's victims.

This House, reflecting that wish, unanimously supported Bill C-442 to accomplish that. Yet at committee, the government introduced nine amendments, one for each article, signalling that it was walking away from its commitment and withdrawing its support for a publicly funded national Holocaust monument.

Instead, the Conservatives told a small segment of our population to raise the money, build the monument, and when and if this is done, they would take ownership and credit.

There is no need. The Minister of Transport already has the authority and the means to direct the National Capital Commission to build this monument on behalf of all Canadians.

I ask the minister and the government to respect the will of the House and get this monument out of the political arena and on the ground where it belongs.