

Summer Recess

[English]

Mr. Shields: I just want to identify myself, Mr. Speaker, as a sitting backbencher, and I fully oppose the indecent act the minister is about to introduce.

Mr. Ouellet: There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that this hon. member belongs to the ultra-conservative wing, to those who keep this Parliament running while all the other legislators in Canada are away taking their normal summer vacations.

I want to say that in relation to the Post Office—

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Very uplifting debate.

Mr. Ouellet:—the intervention of the Leader of the Opposition has been absolutely irresponsible. If, today, we still have a strike in Canada, we could thank the Leader of the Opposition. There is no doubt that as long as Parliament would be sitting, there would be no incentive on the part of the leader of the union—

Mr. Clark: We achieved mediation. We achieved mediation.

Mr. Ouellet:—to arrive at the table to negotiate a collective agreement. There is absolutely no incentive. Now that a mediator has been appointed, it is even worse. The Leader of the Opposition made a statement to the effect that he only wants to check whether or not Mr. Justice Gold would be successful. I find it absolutely unbelievable—

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Ouellet:—and irresponsible on the part of the poor Leader of the Opposition who is currently so shaken.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that the Canadian public who is witnessing this shameful spectacle of the opposition which has been going on for over a week will realize the futility of their action and their intervention. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it must be recalled that the opposition has kept us in the House one extra week and not one single important piece of legislation has since been adopted. The hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty) used up the precious time of the House this week—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

● (2200)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—SOUTHEAST ASIA—ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay): Mr. Speaker, this week in New York City 87 countries are meeting under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss the future of one of the world's most unfortunate countries, namely, Cambodia or Kampuchea. This show of activity is in strange contrast to the lack of activity that we have found at the United Nations during those years when Pol Pot and his henchmen were running rampant, killing, it is alleged, three million of their own countrymen, which represents one third of the total population of that tragedy stricken country.

An editorial in the *New York Times* today summed it up very well. In part it reads:

Vietnam's crimes in Cambodia are real, and deserve the denunciations of a special United Nations conference this week. But the accusers pass too quickly over the crimes of Pol Pot, whose regime may have caused the deaths of three million Cambodians. He is "our" monster in this propaganda battle and his representative speaks for Cambodia at the U.N., thanks to an unholy understanding between the United States and China.

My purpose in rising tonight is to ask our Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) whether we will be part of that unholy understanding which affects so tragically the people of Cambodia. Last autumn I asked the minister why Canada saw fit during the last session of the United Nations last autumn to vote for the seating of the Pol Pot regime at the United Nations. The minister's answer did not satisfy me and I asked for an opportunity to discuss the matter further. Prefacing that question, I referred to a motion which had been put in the House approximately three years ago which reads:

[Translation]

—when the House of Commons agreed unanimously to the following motion:

—[that] all members of the Canadian parliament express their horror of that genocide, which is one of the worst crimes in the history of mankind, and ask all parliamentarians, and governments which maintain relations with our country to protest against that slaughter which has astounded the entire world.

[English]

That motion unanimously supported by this House, was presented by the present Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. De Bané) when he was still a private member of this House.

[Translation]

In September of that year, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Jamieson, demanded at a meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York that the UN give particular consideration to the conditions in Democratic Kampuchea where murderous, brutal and massive repression was occurring and where human rights were being ignored. How can the Canadian government justify such a reversal? This is what I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The government submits that the vote in support of granting a seat in the United Nations to the Pol Pot faction is the lesser of two evils and that this in no ways