

pers, to pursue that which can be done in the true spirit of Dr. Norman Bethune, and to seek no other gratification other than knowing that we can continue to be leaders in striving for world peace.

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak and condemn the inhuman acts perpetrated by the Chinese Government against her own people. I understand the aspirations of the Chinese people who protest for freedom. I cannot fathom the insanity of action by the Chinese authorities.

Indeed, Beijing's Tiananmen Square will henceforth stand in world history as a slaughterhouse for innocent civilians whose only aspiration is for the betterment of their own people, for the dignity of their families—the very foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

The brutality which the military has used in quelling the forces of democracy is horrifying indeed. Civilians of all ages and from all walks of life are being slain. All are being sacrificed because they had the courage and determination to pursue the universal goal of freedom. The catastrophe in China affects all human beings irrespective of race, religion or political allegiance. In Canada, our collective indignation is symbolized by the unanimous consent and agreement of all political parties to debate this issue in the House of Commons tonight and I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your consent.

We must not only speak as enraged democratic people, but also in consciousness of the many Chinese Canadians who must feel particularly shocked by the events in Beijing. Chinese Canadians have participated fully in the economic and social growth of our country and have helped build some of our most important national institutions.

What is behind this sudden surge of support for democracy on the part of the students? This is a question that must be examined. Why suddenly are these students protesting against the political party that has ruled their lives all along?

Basically, China has given her citizens new economic freedom but has denied them political freedom. The current Chinese leadership believed that economic reform would be enough. They believed that the Chinese

population could be seduced by the importation of consumer goods and would be apathetic to the demand for political freedom. The authorities were wrong.

The demonstrations by these students signalled to conservative Communist Party members that they were wrong. The demonstrators called for specific political reforms; for increased funding for education which would make it possible for more Chinese citizens to escape poverty; for the publication of the income and assets of top party leaders to provide public accountability and prevent corruption; for the support of liberal policies and greater democracy; for open dialogue between the students and government that would be open to the public and broadcasts uncensored on national television. Above all, they called for the freedom of the press, speech and assembly, values which all societies in the world strive for.

Instead of granting the desired political freedom, the Communist Party acted desperately to preserve their control at the expense of human lives. By setting the military on unarmed civilians, the Chinese leaders illustrated that they are barbaric, without a heart and who govern without consent. They obviously adhere to Mao's maxim that power grows from the barrel of a gun and ignore that true power emanates from the people.

This morning, Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong warned that the Government and the Communist Party had reached the end of their patience, and I quote: "If anyone continues their resistance, they will be severely punished."

It has also been reported that Deng has said, and again I quote: "Even if they're functioning out of ignorance, they are still participating and must be suppressed."

It is the people of China who have reached the end of their patience with Chinese leaders who are ignorant. They are ignorant of the needs of their citizens: the need for political freedom and for personal independence. Indeed, the very basic need to live and to be free to live.

The concerns that these events cause us are many. We are concerned about the lives of the protesters in China as well as the Canadian citizens whose lives may be in danger.