

Rhodesian Position in Commonwealth

However, a statistical analysis published in the *Sunday Times* last Sunday found that majority rule would be possible in about 65 years. According to the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, Harold Wilson, it would take Africans to achieve legislative parity—this is not majority rule—between 15 years and 600 years. Does the world expect the people of Rhodesia to wait so long for this incomplete and inadequate goal of simple parity?

Principle No. 3 was that there would have to be immediate improvement in the political status of the African population. The proposal we are discussing calls for immediate improvement in the political status of the African population by the addition of four extra African seats in the assembly. This is minimal. It constitutes in substance a very grave omission from the five principles.

Principle No. 4 is that there would have to be progress toward ending racial discrimination. The proposals we are discussing simply record the Smith regime's intention to reduce racial discrimination and set up a three-man commission to review the question without any powers.

The Land Tenure Act is the main bastion of apartheid. This act is only to be reviewed by the commission. There is no guarantee that there will be any action on it. The commission's recommendations will be "commended" by the Smith regime "except where there are considerations which any government would regard as overriding". This is a loophole a mile wide. All in all the proposals are quite inadequate.

The Canadian government should express grave reservations about the whole proposal. It should not rush headlong into endorsing what may turn out to be a snare and delusion for legitimate African aspirations, and should maintain its sanctions until the opinion of the black people of Africa has been secured and the United Nations has accepted their withdrawal.

Canada has a good reputation as a white western country that has shown sympathy and understanding of black African aspirations and an abhorrence of racial discrimination. In the interest of good relations between the races of the world and in the interest of future world peace and security this reputation must not be thrown away. Canada should consult with its Commonwealth partners and should withhold recognition of an independent Rhodesian government until genuine majority rule in Rhodesia is attained.

• (2:30 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) has just tabled a statement by the British government concerning the agreement recently entered into between the British government, representing the Commonwealth, and the Rhodesian government.

Mr. Speaker, before I had the opportunity of visiting Rhodesia on August 16, I had been brainwashed as most other Canadians were. Indeed, the international news services had led me to believe that Rhodesia was a dictatorship, a fascist and totalitarian country. Now I had the opportunity with three other members—and I think it would be advisable to have them express an opinion—to travel in Rhodesia whence we returned with a similar

[Mr. Brewin.]

conviction. During our trip, we were compelled to leave our prejudices aside, to squarely consider the facts and to investigate. We visited the whole of Rhodesia. We met all heads of government as well as the revolutionary chiefs who want the government to follow the example of other black African countries which, after gaining their independence, have become communist satellites of China or the U.S.S.R.

I am happy today to give a different version from that of the hon. members who spoke before me. We have found that order, discipline and prosperity prevail in Rhodesia. We were asked to send our surplus technicians to Rhodesia where, we were told, work would be found for them when there is little for them here in Canada. The unfortunate fact with regard to Rhodesia is that, in 1961, when England tried to interfere in the internal affairs of the country, the latter declared its independence unilaterally. That was its sin.

Today, after five years of unsuccessful economic and political sanctions from Canada, the United States and other countries, we must envy the prosperity and discipline of Rhodesia.

Canada even stopped selling wheat to Rhodesia. That country did not produce wheat, but following the economic sanctions imposed by several countries, it started its own production of which it even exports a part today.

General Motors, Ford and Chrysler closed their plants in Rhodesia. That did not affect the white minority, but the majority of black people who worked for them.

Mr. Speaker, those who have had the privilege of visiting Rhodesia can repudiate the misinterpretation of facts that is constantly appearing in newspapers. And instead of giving advice to the Rhodesians or to rebuke them the House should appoint a special committee responsible for carrying an investigation in that country, which has not been done since 1961. If such a committee were established it could ascertain whether the Rhodesians are such bad people as the international press portrays them.

No country is now exercising economic control over Rhodesia. It is strange that the United States and some other countries which have imposed sanctions are nevertheless exporting goods to that country. Why? Because Rhodesia has the necessary funds to purchase various things.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to say a word about the famous sin of discrimination. The majority rule in Rhodesia does not exist. I am not going to read comments or articles from newspapers. I have in hand a copy of the Debates of the Senate of Rhodesia, dated September 1, 1971, where it says that the Senate has returned a bill through a black majority. The Rhodesian Africans represented in the Senate or in the government of Rhodesia have reversed a bill which was deemed to have been introduced by the Whites. Contrary to what some people would have the whole world believe, it is untrue that the Whites are governing Rhodesia and that the Blacks are under their authority because the Rhodesian African senators have returned a bill which was deemed to have been introduced by the government. This means that the black senators have, on any given day, the possibility of rejecting any bill which they are not satisfied with. This is