

Apartheid

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): If the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) still has the floor, he has the floor until five o'clock, and will continue to have the floor at six o'clock, then there will be time for questions and comments.

Mr. Waddell: In order to facilitate the business of the House, we are prepared to allow this debate to transpire now, to finish it off now, then have the Private Members' Hour so this Bill can pass. What we are trying to point out is that our justice critic is in Montreal with the Justice Committee, and yet the Government called this Bill. That is hardly fair ball. We want to put that on the record, but we do not want to hold up the House. If you would call the vote on this Bill, Mr. Speaker, if that is possible, I think you will see that the House is prepared to pass third reading of this Bill and then we can move on to Private Members' Hour.

Mr. Grisé: Mr. Speaker, we would like you to put the question, but we, of course, do not accept that the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. Harris) should be allowed at this time to put any questions or make any comments. We on this side would agree to have the question put right now.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. Harris: Point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): If there is not consent to put the vote now, we will proceed to Private Members' Business.

Mr. Harris: Point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): On the issue of Private Members' Business, the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. Harris).

Mr. Harris: I have a point of order. We have gone until five o'clock. The Parliamentary Secretary who spoke interrupted. There is one comment I wish to make on behalf of the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) who worked very hard in this debate—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): You are out of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): I do not accept that as a point of order. The Hon. Member for Western Arctic has the right to present his Bill in the hour for Private Members' Business.

It now being five o'clock, the House will proceed to consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--MOTIONS

[*English*]

APARTHEID**ADVISABILITY OF RESCINDING SOME SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA**

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of rescinding two categories of sanctions against South Africa namely (a) those which impact most less well off citizens (b) those rendered inapplicable by recent progress towards the dismantlement of apartheid.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is a motion which has been on the Order Paper for well over a year. During that time, as I reflect upon it, I became more and more convinced of the rightness of this approach. I think the Government of Canada ought to reconsider its policy with respect to South Africa. The imposition of the present sanctions, in my opinion, are having quite the opposite effect to what was intended. They are not helpful at all.

The policy initiatives to date are negative. They are negative in effect and negative themselves. They are based on a lack of complete understanding of what is a particularly complex situation. They are certainly having the opposite effect of what was intended. In my opinion, the policy of sanctions ought to be reversed. They ought to be replaced with positive and constructive initiatives. Canada ought not to be scared of doing that which is right and just, just because we might be criticized on that account by countries and people who have some other axe to grind.

I compliment the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) for the way in which he has been speaking out rightly and justly on controversial issues in the recent past. I would hope he would extend that also to the situation as it exists in South Africa. What I think is needed is a friendly approach to assist the people of South Africa in solving their problems. They have made remarkable progress over the last few years. It has necessitated a whole change in people's thinking. People who were brought up to think one way have had to reverse that thinking in the space of just a few years, and they have adapted remarkably well.

South Africans do not need us kicking them when they are down, which is what sanctions do. They need a helping hand to raise them up. The stated rationale of the Government of Canada for the imposition of sanctions is—and I will try to paraphrase the words of the Secretary of State for External Affairs—to demonstrate to the people and to the Government of South Africa a repugnance for the apartheid policy, to let them know that such a policy is unacceptable internationally and that they must change it. If this was the reason, then the sanctions should be lifted immediately. South Africans know this already.

The stated policy of the Government of that country is to dismantle apartheid—we applaud them for that—and to find a system of government where all South Africans can play a