

that is being written now that bring us up short with the realization that too often the veneer of civilization is just that, a very thin veneer.

As this tragedy unfolds as one more chapter in China's long history, it is perhaps very important for all of us in this country and elsewhere around the globe to make a distinction between the people of China and those who are currently in authority in China and have set in motion this chain of events.

It is very clear that China with its centuries of rich culture and human endeavour has a very great deal to teach the rest of the world. But China has nothing to teach the rest of the world about how to deal with political change. What we have seen in the last two days represents the most complete and abysmal failure of a government to respond to change within its own country. When the point is reached where armed soldiers turn and fire on unarmed civilians within their own country, no more greater statement of bankrupt political thinking could be made than that which was carried by the signature of those machine guns firing and those tanks moving along the Boulevard of Eternal Peace.

The Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) when he spoke earlier referred to events in Europe, particularly in Hungary in 1956. I was 11 years old in 1956 and delivering newspapers on my paper route door to door. After several days of seeing photographs on the front page of *The Toronto Telegram* showing students in running shoes with Molotov cocktails in their hands up against the heavy-booted soldiers and the steel-plated tanks moving through the streets of Budapest, I became very depressed and for a number of weeks was inexplicably in a state of melancholy. I feel the same sense tonight, and I mention Budapest in 1956 for two reasons.

First, because that image of students standing before those tanks as the troops of repression swept into Hungary is a direct parallel with the scene that Canadians saw just a few moments ago on national television. They saw students standing before tanks in the streets of the capital city of China with nothing but their human bravery and their commitment to their beliefs in democracy against that awesome military threat that was only feet and inches away from them. Therefore we see a parallel in a sense.

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If we are to see some similarities between now and 1956, let us see another one. In retrospect, many people saw Budapest in 1956 as a time of lost opportunity because coming from the people was a strong drive for political freedom in a communist controlled country. The West did not respond at that time because the West was preoccupied with other activities; the French and the British in the Suez and the Canadians also in the Suez crisis. The Americans were preoccupied in 1956 with electing their popular general, Dwight Eisenhower, as President.

There were many other distractions. It was only in retrospect that many people regretted that there had not been a greater sense of the historic moment so that those within Hungary could have felt appropriate support.

We are now witnessing another moment of history. It is more than right for all of us to stand here as representatives of an outraged Canadian populace and give expression to the justifiable horror which we all feel. It is not only right, it is necessary that around the world those who are democrats express that feeling unequivocally.

Beyond expressing outrage, I am saying that we must be creative in how we are viewing this unfolding situation in China. Most assuredly this is another historic moment. There may be opportunities if we think creatively, if we view the situation with an open mind and listen especially to those forces within China which in some form or other we can assist at this time. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Transcona spoke about the ironies in this situation and the distinction between who are the hardliners and who are not the hardliners. Following on his line of thinking, I believe it is very important that we do not at this time fall too easily into putting labels and categories to a situation that is extraordinarily complex.

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Using all of the resources of our country, including not only Canadians with experience in China but many who are now Canadians of Chinese background, and being open to all the possibilities that this situation presents, we must speak as we are tonight and act as a Parliament as we are tonight. However, in the days ahead, as this chain of events continues to unfold, we must look for ways that we can, as one of the world's countries that has a very special relationship with China, continue to support those forces of democracy and those forces of