

[*Translation*]

I have been waiting for a long time, perhaps too long, to tell you what I felt deep down, and this is something I have the right to do.

For 40 years I stood up in my society. Perhaps I did not do it always in the best way, perhaps I was not always right, perhaps I did not always believe that my views were the best for others, but I tried to understand this country. I tried to grasp it, perhaps desperately.

A nation involves two things:

[*English*]

—a collective memory and an individual memory. A collective memory is the background of every people. Some things we do not remember, but we know. There is also an individual memory that commands us to speak out.

[*Translation*]

I realize that time flies and today we have Royal Assent, but I would like to ask simply whether this will go on for years, and in this respect I would like to quote a verse Senator Tremblay knows very well, because it comes from one of his friends, St-Denys Garneau:

I am walking beside a joy, a joy that is mine but does not belong to me.

That joy is my country.

There is another man called Robert Kennedy who said for the benefit of your sons, and this is something I wish you from the bottom of my heart—

● (1630)

[*English*]

Some men see things as they are and dream of things that never were and say, "Why not?"

[*Translation*]

I ask very humbly: Has the day not finally come to tell our descendants that we must together search for a way to stop our bickering, in order to live somewhat longer than from 1980 to 1990?

Honourable senators, you have been most patient and I am thankful for this.

[*English*]

Senator Nurgitz: Honourable senators, if no one else wishes to move adjournment of the debate, I will do so now.

On motion of Senator Nurgitz, debate adjourned.

POLAND

GOVERNMENT-SOLIDARITY "ROUND TABLE" DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTANT DEVELOPMENTS—DEBATE CONCLUDED

Hon. Stanley Haidasz rose, pursuant to notice of Thursday, June 29:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the historic Government-Solidarity "round-table" discussions and the resultant developments in parliamentary, political, social and economic reforms in Poland.

He said: Honourable senators, I should like to begin my remarks on my Inquiry No. 5, calling the attention of the Senate to the historic government-solidarity "round-table" discussions and their resultant developments in parliamentary, political, social and economic reforms in Poland.

I was not present in the Senate when Senator Poitras spoke yesterday about his visit to Poland with a Canadian parliamentary delegation. Although he spoke sympathetically about his visit to Poland, this afternoon I would like say a few more detailed remarks.

I should like to preface these remarks by saying that it was thanks to the Senate research program that I was able to go to Poland on July 16 last to attend the Third Conference of Polish Scientists and Learned Societies. At this conference there were about 400 participants and at least two interventions by delegates from Canada. I had the privilege, on Sunday, July 16, to deliver an address in Polish at the official opening in Pultusk of the renovated castle of the Bishops of Plock, which the government gave to the use of the Association of Poles Abroad.

The next day the conference was addressed by a Canadian scientist, Krzysztof Krzystyniak, who spoke about the influence of environmental pollution on the immune system of the body. This was followed by a Polish Canadian scientist from McGill University, who talked about the recent innovations in technology to control environmental pollution.

● (1640)

That visit to Poland took place right after the exhilarating experience of the victory of the Solidarity forces in the June 4 election. As you know, at that time there was before the Polish people the whole question of replacing the Communist regime with a democratic, freely-elected Parliament. To put this in perspective, the elections of June 4, 1989, were the culmination of a great bloodless struggle, led by Lech Walesa and his union, to bring to Polish society the concept of the dignity of the human being, as well as the right of workers to strike for fair salaries. May I also add that it was this bold electrician from the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk who had the political courage to bring down a Communist regime by proving to the people of Poland that his way, the democratic way, was better than the Communist regime which destroyed the Polish economy and caused so much misery for the people of Poland. This Movement Solidarity—led by Walesa—inspired many other political leaders in Eastern Europe, and what followed amazed us all in the last days of the 1980s. There came not only electoral victory in Poland but also the crumbling of the Berlin wall and the change of the political system in East Germany, and also of the political system in Czechoslovakia, led by President Vaclav Havel, whom I had the opportunity to listen to when he visited Poland just last Thursday. Then followed, of course, the political changes in Bulgaria and the awful demonstration and massacres in Romania, including the demise of the tyrannical dictator Ceausescu. Rarely in recorded history has a major political force been so rapidly removed from office. The unfolding events of 1989 were unprecedented in the magnitude of their effect on global politics. This unprecedent-