

Borrowing Authority Act

the dollars that it got six years ago for one ton of copper. Is that supposed to make Canadians or Chileans better off? It is nonsense, except for a very small privileged minority.

• (1540)

What we have, Mr. Speaker, is very clearly shown in Guatemala. Three Members of this Parliament visited that country last week as an all-Party observer delegation to the Latin American Parliament that met in Guatemala City on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. I was privileged to be the representative of our Party. I was there also on work for the Labour, Employment and Immigration Committee. I learned a little bit more about what has happened in Guatemala.

Ninety per cent of the farms are less than one hectare of land, less than is necessary to support a family. Eighty per cent of the children are malnourished. I have seen farms before at a 45 degree angle, up on hillsides in Honduras. I wondered how the farmers could do it. In Guatemala I saw farms, I swear I didn't have a protractor with me, but some of them were at a 60 degree angle. A journalist told me that the farmer sometimes falls off his field or ties himself to a tree so he can work in his field. Those are the farmers who have been driven into the hills by the large landowners who have taken over by force—not only in Spanish times but in modern times—the fertile flat plains. They have driven the *campesinos* and the Indians up into the hills where they cannot make a living.

Those landowners are backed by their brothers, cousins and nephews who are the army's generals who cause people to disappear if they disagree. This is an infamous fact about Guatemala that may or may not be coming to an end. When I was told that the freely elected President of Guatemala sleeps in a different house every night with 20 bodyguards, I wondered how deep democracy goes in Guatemala.

Behind and alongside the landowners and the military are the foreign banks which have now brought Guatemala into debt bondage, to external debt, and the U.S. arms industry and the U.S. aid to the Guatemalan army, which army is not being used and for 32 years has not been used to defend Guatemala from outside intervention but only to suppress the hungry *campesinos* and Indians.

Mrs. Maily: This has nothing to do with the Bill.

Mr. Heap: I have been there, Mr. Speaker. I have seen the fields. I have read the reports by our Department of External Affairs and from many other sources. The Hon. Member across the way can giggle and chirp, but what I am saying is true. I challenge her to investigate and show otherwise. The result of all that is death squads, disappearances and a growing danger of international war in Central America. An international war if it starts will not stop with Central America.

Against that, what I am asking for is that we look and see what the options are when it can happen that the rich can take a country to destruction so that we stop in Canada before we go any farther down that road.

What I am asking is that we respect this principle which is being taught by more and more of the leaders of the Christian church and of other religions in the world, but in our country particularly the Christian church, that we respect the principle of the preferential option for the poor. Instead of focusing on making corporations richer and instead of finding ways to give tax breaks to lure foreign capital into Canada while Canadian produced capital is shipped out by the billions to New York, or God knows where else, instead of kowtowing always to the people with the most money, we should be directing our programs immediately toward feeding the hungry, clothing the people who haven't got clothes, housing the people who are not decently housed according to our minimal standards, improving the education system instead of starving it as at present it is being done, and improving medical and health care instead of creating a crisis as has been done in the health care system in Ontario at this time.

We should also be giving working people a voice in their own decisions. By working people I mean anybody who makes his living by his work rather than getting his livelihood exclusively from somebody else's work. That includes most Canadians who are now mostly excluded. It would mean workers in a factory would have something to say about that factory and whether the factory will shut down next year, as did the factory where I worked for 18 years. A few years after I left it was bought by another company, it was shuffled around and men and women 50 and 60 sixty years old were thrown out on the street because they were redundant.

That sort of decision would not be made if workers had some voice in how this country's work is done. I believe the decisions would be made in a way that could produce efficiently but without destroying human lives. We would have better morale in the workforce, better public co-operation, less crime.

If you want to see what unbridled competition produces, look at a country that has more armoured cars per capita than any other country in the world. I am speaking of Guatemala where the streets are not safe at night. If you visit there, the Canadian Embassy will tell you so. You can look at how the Canadian Ambassador and his staff drive about. They drive in an armoured car with a guard carrying a machine gun. There is free enterprise. There is the option for the rich. You cannot move around the city without a gun. That is where they are heading. Do we want to go there?

If we concentrated on producing for people's needs instead of producing for the profit of a very few, we would also be able to open up our trade relations with many more countries than just the United States where we have our problems. We would find also that we are in a much better position to work with other countries for world peace. There are a great many benefits for all the people, even the rich, who do not like to be killed in war and who do not like crime on the streets. All the people in this country could benefit if the Government and this Parliament and the other Governments of this country would begin to choose the preferential option for the poor. In other words, we should think of the use of the world's natural