

*Supply*

have been interesting to have the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) here to see this cavalier treatment of the policies of his government when they were in office as expressed by the hon. member for St. John's West.

As I have said, this government speaks for the mainstream. There are a few brave souls in the party opposite, risking the wrath of their fellows, who swim along with the government, but there are others who are off paddling on the sides by themselves, and there are some who are floundering. The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands is swimming in the wrong direction, upstream, and the hon. member for St. John's West has indicated by his views on Afghanistan and other issues that he is not even in the water yet. Perhaps I might change my metaphor somewhat to say that he is actually a beached whale who has been thrown up on the shores by his own leader.

With respect to the New Democratic Party, it is all too well known that their attitudes to the world are vitiated by the anti-western, anti-NATO position which they have taken on all issues of the day but which come out most dramatically on issues of East-West confrontation and issues of disarmament. It is well known that the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), the leader of that party, is a closet supporter of NATO but is not allowed out of the closet by his own party who, at their last meeting, voted against the continuance of Canada in NATO.

• (1610)

Having seen that the opposition parties are not in the mainstream, let us look at the position the government has adopted with respect to the crisis in Poland and Canada's response. Following the imposition of martial law in Poland on December 13 of last year—

**Mr. Crosbie:** They sent Flis over!

**Mr. MacGuigan:**—Canadian policy in respect to this tragic event has been twofold. We have continued to manifest our humanitarian concern for the welfare of the Polish people, particularly for their human rights and freedoms. We have also sought to demonstrate clearly to the Polish and Soviet authorities our firm belief that the imposition of martial law on the united people struggling to build a better future for themselves and their country was a reprehensible act. I need not list again for hon. members the humanitarian assistance that the government has provided for the Polish people.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Helping the government.

**Mr. MacGuigan:** Our efforts have been considerable and have served to supplement, in no small way, those of thousands of Canadians across this country. I notice the interruptions by the hon. member for St. John's West. I think the House should once again take notice of his interruptions. I do not know whether he was speaking for his party on this occasion or not. How is one to know? On this occasion he said that he was opposed to the continuance of the food supply of wheat which Canada allows to go to Poland so that the people will not

starve. That is the policy of that hon. member, at least, and perhaps of his party. I leave that to them to fight out among themselves in their usual happy fashion.

**Mr. Crosbie:** That, I never said.

**Mr. Siddon:** Happy as you are. As long as you tell the truth, Mark.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Try the truth, like the Minister of Justice.

**Mr. MacGuigan:** We have also frequently and consistently expressed our serious concerns about the human rights situation in Poland. I attended the fifth session of the Madrid follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe—

**Mr. Crosbie:** You are good at attending meetings.

**Mr. MacGuigan:**—and spoke out in detail on that occasion, February 9. Let me recall a portion of my Madrid statement.

**Mr. Crosbie:** All talk and no do.

**Mr. MacGuigan:** I stated:

The commitment of the Polish government to fulfil its obligations under Principle VII has clearly been abandoned in the events that have transpired in Poland since December 13, 1981. Thousands of people have been interned, simply for having been active in an organization duly recognized by the Polish courts. They have been charged with no criminal offences. They are simply being held, being allowed minimal contacts with their families and friends, at the pleasure of the government—

At the time of the imposition of martial law in Poland, nearly ten million of the country's work force of some 14 million belonged to "Solidarity". They were supported in their efforts to improve the economic and social conditions prevailing in Poland by their families and friends, by the million-strong membership of rural Solidarity and by millions of sympathizers and admirers around the world.

Their valiant efforts to exercise their right to self-determination gave us all hope in the power of the individual to take his life in his own hands, to join together with other like-minded individuals, and together to build a better future. These hopes were quashed on December 13, 1981. The present Polish authorities have not, despite all their efforts, been able to explain to our satisfaction why they acted as they did, where the threats of civil war and anarchy came from.

Canada has stated on numerous occasions that Poland must be left to resolve its political and social difficulties without outside intervention. We believe firmly that only the Poles themselves have the right to determine their national destiny—but it must be all Poles, not just a small ruling class.

Surely this statement fully demonstrates the Canadian government's concern for the human rights of the Polish people. I can tell hon. members that the Soviet and Polish representatives in Madrid were left in no doubt about our position.

In implementing the second aspect of the response to the imposition of martial law in Poland, the Canadian government has stood firmly with our NATO allies. At our ministerial meeting in Brussels on January 11, and again in Luxembourg on May 17 and 18, we called for the lifting of martial law, the release of those detained and the restoration of the dialogue among the government, Solidarity and the church. Canada and its NATO allies also agreed to suspend the provision of future commercial credits for goods other than food, and to hold in abeyance consideration of holding negotiations on the payments due in 1982 on Poland's official debt.