

S.O. 29

television, but as the black people. How long would we have the patience to try and arouse the conscience of the world by crying out: Look at us, understand us, we are human beings just like anyone else, we have our pride; do you not understand that if you will not grant us that equality which is also our right, we will become impatient!

This is the whole phenomenon, not of terrorism but of violence. When I fall a victim to the kind of injustice that is so widespread, when I am asking in vain that my rights be recognized, nobody listens to me. So I shout louder, but still nobody listens to me. Then I join in with my neighbours and we shout in the streets, but still they will not listen. At that point we have no arms, we get organized, we knock things over, we overturn buses, we burn a few tires, and then the police which some people like so much to support, step in, crushes and arrests people. Who is arrested? Leaders like Mandela. What happens to them? They are put in jail. What happens to them, not only in South Africa but in so many other places like Chile and elsewhere? They are tortured.

But, Mr. Speaker, would you allow your son, your daughter or your wife or your friends to be tortured, deprived of fundamental things, like the right to education, the right to justice, the right to equality, the right to clothing, the right to shelter? But When you deal with people who deprive you of all that, your propensity for violence gets exacerbated.

Some people have but one word on their minds, "terrorism": terrorism here, terrorism there, to stop you from pointing out the injustice in all of that. But finally we realize that if we in the Western world do not take the leadership in helping them, those people will rise, they will have their revolution as others did before them. People are thrown into prison, like Kenyatta, and the Mau Mau had their revolution. I remember seeing the same pictures when I was young. They had their revolution in Kenya. Kenyatta was thrown into prison. They put Nehru back into prison. So they did with liberated themselves. Why?

● (1930)

[*English*]

Because these people suffered the same fate under colonialists who branded them terrorists and communists. It is always the same word—communists, communists, communists. Because you want justice you are accused of being communist. It is as if being a capitalist means you can do anything wrong. I refuse to believe that.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I say—and I am not bragging—that the experience I have, Canadian taxpayers have paid for me to learn; my constituents have elected me over and over again. They make it possible for me to continue to look after the interests of Quebecers, obviously, and Canadians generally, but also to address major world issues, which has enabled me to travel and take part in the proceedings of the United Nations or the International Parliamentary Union where I was elected to chair the International Policy Commission dealing

with these issues. As a representative of a western country, I had much difficulty getting elected. As though I wore a mask saying: West. We are in a minority situation, but I was elected nevertheless by a majority of non-aligned countries.

I have often been to the United Nations. I was there when Arafat made a speech in 1974. It was the very same desperate message: Please, I beg you, listen! Give us justice! Give us passports! Give us back our land!

But what do the South African people want? The Black population says: Give us back our pride! Give us equal rights! Since you have them, why should I be without them!

Well, we continue dragging our feet. We keep saying: You know, economic sanctions might not be as good as you think. This may be true. But Canada is perceived so much as a leader in the whole world. Canada is perceived so much as a different, tolerant, multicultural country that we should show leadership. I beg the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) and the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to take the initiative. If they deem it necessary, they should call a special meeting of the Commonwealth countries and during these special meetings and proceedings, why not . . . We could have special rules!

Canada should continue to show leadership. The whole world—it seems to me at times that only Canadians—

[*English*]

Only Canadians do not know what Canada is all about. The world believes in Canada. The world loves Canada because we are no longer a colonial country. We have a colonial past. We were colonized, and doubly colonized—

Mr. Heap: Triply colonized.

Mr. Prud'homme: Triply colonized, economically, as the Hon. Member says. People recognize themselves in us. Some people expect more from us than the hesitant steps which we usually take. Let us inform Canadians. I believe that when Canadians are informed, they are well ahead of any Government. Let us tell them what the term "sanction" means in terms of dollars and cents. Let us call upon the trade unions. I know that they will answer, even if they have to suffer a little bit. Everyone in the country must suffer a little bit—equally, not some more than others—in order to help our brothers and sisters in South Africa to show them that we, white people, care for them even if they have black skin. That is the message that Canada could deliver. It is the message that most of the Commonwealth countries are waiting to hear from Canada, not the hesitating waltz, a little step this way and a little step that way. Leadership—that is what most of the African and non-aligned countries expect from Canada. We have leadership and understanding, let us show it by our actions.

My colleagues, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) and the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap), could very well ask me: Do you have some concrete proposals? I have some. They may not be the best, but they are at least steps in the right direction.