

S.O. 29

facts we have been watching on the square little TV box. In a very vivid way he has brought home the hurt, the dilemma and anguish of mothers, fathers and children who are being battered, bruised and damaged in their person and in their inner egos because they are black. Their white brothers and sisters who support them are being damaged as well.

The Hon. Member talked about the fact that he looked to the day when children can go to school together, and I assume when husbands and wives can live together, when people can govern together and when they can earn and work together on a fair and equal footing. That is the direction in which we should work if we want to see an end to what is going on in this very ugly and unacceptable regime called apartheid.

I did not have the opportunity to witness this firsthand as many others in this House did, but I recall speaking the other day in response to allegations against the election of Kurt Waldheim as leader of the Austrian people. I called for an independent international investigation of the serious allegations against him. I hold the very fundamental point of view that we are and we act, based only on fact and on knowledge, and that we are innocent until we have been proven guilty. I do not believe that a nation has the right to act precipitously. I do not think that we have the right to criticize unless we know and have proven the facts. Irrespective of the fact that I personally was affronted, and I feel most of us were, the rule of law, morality, is the first rule for me.

We have heard the testimony of my colleagues who have been there and who have witnessed firsthand. We have also heard the testimony of an eminent member of the South African community, that moving force who was in our midst just a week ago, Bishop Tutu. He himself personifies peace, man's goodwill toward man and the right to live in harmony with one's neighbours. He called on level heads to act sensibly together to bring an end to this evil regime called apartheid. He counselled careful action, but the use of a loud voice against the regime South Africa has elected for itself. He advocated co-operation and partnership and called for a sense of fairness and equality. At one point he did not agree that sanctions should be imposed but he has come to the conclusion that the time is now and that sanctions seem to be the only and perhaps the last course of action before we are witness to incredible bloodshed brought on South Africa by the evil of apartheid.

● (1810)

As we listened to what Bishop Tutu was saying on t.v., we received as well the report of the Eminent Persons Group which came to corroborate all that which we had seen through the media. The Eminent Persons talked about their moving personal experiences and about the carnage they witnessed in Alexandra when they arrived. They talked about the day of their departure from Cape Town when Crossroads was on fire and a pall of smoke hung over the sky. They talked about a country that was in upheaval and they witnessed great human suffering. Even as they were writing, killings were continuing.

As we watched television, I wonder how many of us identified with those men, women and children who were being beaten. Did we see ourselves and our own families in that situation? Did we understand the hurt, misery and unhappiness that brought about the reaction of unarmed people trying every measure possible designed to bring common sense to the leadership of South Africa and to bring their concern for equality rights to that Government's attention?

The Eminent Persons Group said the following:

The question in front of Heads of Government is in our view clear. It is not whether such measures will compel change; it is already the case that their absence and Pretoria's belief that they need not be feared, defers change. Is the Commonwealth to stand by and allow the cycle of violence to spiral? Or will it take concerted action of an effective kind?

Such action may offer the last opportunity to avert what could be the worst bloodbath since the Second World War.

They went on to say:

This is the reason why countries whose economies are intertwined with that of South Africa, and who inevitably remain vulnerable, nonetheless regard the imposition of economic sanctions on South Africa as the sole remaining instrument for effective change in the absence of serious negotiations by the South African Government with genuine black leaders.

I have a long memory and I think many of us in this room can recall *Crystalnacht* in Berlin, Germany. We can recall that the world saw and that the world chose to close its eyes. The world could hear if it had cared the cries of millions of people. It could hear and feel the suffering of six million people during the Holocaust. Although race and religion were certainly involved, many people were caught in the horror of a world gone mad. Man's inhumanity toward man was evident at that time. If we care to learn any of the lessons of history, this should be the time to recall the Holocaust. For what the world saw, the world then said "Never Again".

I would suspect that of all the issues that engulf the Jewish condition, the one that perhaps hurts and pains the most, the one that resonates in the hearts and minds of each and every one of us, the one that represents an assault on the memory and dignity of every one of us, is the ugly spectre of the Holocaust denial. One compelling truth is clear and that is Auschwitz. I believe the Holocaust is beyond vocabulary, and language mocks reality. There are things in my Jewish history that are too terrible to be believed but not too terrible to have happened. However, there is a lesson to be learned from it. I think we must learn that lesson. We must stand tall and firm as Canadians in active remembrance, with fidelity to memory and fidelity to truth. The Holocaust must stand for more. It must be a lesson to all of mankind. If ever there was a lesson to be learned, it is that one. When racism rears its ugly head, it is time to stand up and be counted.

It is not because the members of the Commonwealth of Nations cannot find common ground that we as Canadians do not find our place or time to speak out. When we assault and live with assaults on human rights and allow ourselves to continue in deafening silence, we are the lesser for it. I think we must remember and act. A world which is not safe for democracy is not safe for Jews and is not safe for blacks. It is