

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, June 5, 1989

[*Editor's Note: continuation of proceedings from Volume A.*]

### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

### MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

[*English*]

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### CRISIS IN CHINA

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair has granted leave to the Hon. Member from Windsor—Lake St. Clair (Mr. McCurdy) to move the adjournment of the House pursuant to Standing Order 52 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the recent events in the People's Republic of China.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair)** moved:

That the House do now adjourn.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I stand before you in this democratic Chamber of a nation which is a member of the fellowship of civilized nations, to join with my colleagues on all sides of the House in shocked revulsion at the horror and brutality visited upon those who wished only that their country would continue its, until now, significant promise of joining that very fellowship to which we belong.

I refer to the bloody China, the violent China exposed on the television screens of the world in these last few horrific days in scenes that could only be judged obscene. These events have occurred because many Chinese have been encouraged to believe that the great counter-revolution led by Deng Xiaopeng in economic reform, and indeed in other areas, offered the hope that democratization on the political front could be hoped for. The rigid, monolithic, centralized communism of the past was

to be abandoned in favour of a new approach to building a Chinese economy that was described by Ding Xiaoping in the aphorism, "It doesn't matter whether a cat is black or white as long as it catches mice."

This was to become the basis of a new approach. Practice became the soul criterion of truth in meeting the material needs of the Chinese people. There was some success. Communal farms were broken up. More and more small private enterprises appeared. Control of industry became decentralized. Factories were allowed to keep their profits. Local governments and enterprises managed their own export and import of goods and services. China became more open to western investment and technology exchange. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, most strikingly perhaps in September of last year, bond and stock markets were opened in Shanyang and Shanghai.

Canada has benefited from these changes. Canadian imports to China have risen rapidly over the last few years, to a point where in the last year we had about \$2.5 billion worth of exports, just about doubling the \$1 billion of imports. Canadian investment has grown considerably. Thirteen Canadian companies and four major chartered banks have opened offices in China. Canadair has been operating a plant in Chien-chiang province producing parts for its Challenger aircraft since the early 1980s.

However, these economic changes were not without their problems. We know that increasingly inflation, profiteering and rapid corruption began to characterize the Chinese economy. These became the subject of widespread discussions as economic change was reflected in a loosening of the strictures of free expression and on the press. But as so often has happened before with reform, there were rising expectations and increasing demands for change in the direction of democracy. This rising tide of expectations was distilled into the massive student protests that earned the admiration of the world for their manifestly restrained and civil exhibition of youthful idealism in the pursuit of democracy.