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and how to do it. The goal is the same for all Members of the House. The goal is to provide dignity for all of the people of South Africa. However, we are being called upon to act quickly and several Hon. Members have said that we have 10 days to decide, August is too late. I would like to deal briefly with the reality that every country faces when it wants to talk about economic sanctions on South Africa.

● (1640)

I am indebted to the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) for the information that helped me to understand this particular issue. Setting aside the fact that that coastline is 1,500 miles long and is a sieve when it comes to providing aid and trade to that country, I recall that about a year ago the External Affairs Committee met *in camera* with a representative of the Soviet Government. I believe it was the Foreign Minister. The Hon. Member for Spadina was with us at that meeting, which lasted about an hour because that was one of the terms under which the Soviets agreed to meet. The Hon. Member for Spadina was not able to ask a question of the Soviet official, so I asked him after the meeting what it was that he wanted to ask that Soviet official. He said that he had just returned from New York where he had met with the anti-apartheid people. While he was there, he found out that the Soviet Union is selling oil to South Africa. That is the nature of the problem.

An old professor of mine used to say that King Commerce rules the world. It so happens that South Africa is the most economically independent country in the world outside of the United States, with the exception of its need for oil. A concrete wall could be put around that republic and it could survive economically quite well. With the technology of converting coal to gas, it can be quite independent economically. Yet the country is shrewd enough to bargain wherever it can.

The Soviet Union, in its hypocritical philosophy, will criticize the heinous regime of apartheid around the world at the same time as it sells oil to South Africa and supplies arms to the National African Congress so that its members may kill each other and fight the racist regime in South Africa which is receiving the oil so that it can fight the National African Congress.

I wonder if Hon. Members have any appreciation of how difficult it is to make sanctions work. Hon. Members say that we have to do something. I would simply underscore to them that thankfully, Canada has had a long, proud and honourable record in dealing with what we fairly glibly call moral issues. Where the dignity of humanity is at stake, Canada has a good record. The reason Canada has as much influence as it does is because it does not sell that credibility easily or cheaply. Therefore, we have to use that credibility that we have stored up over the years to work with others who share that credibility in order to bring together concerted action to bring an end to that regime.

I ask Hon. Members to consider the nature of the problem and not to ask the Government to move so quickly that the

very speed of its action would destroy and subvert our goal and not to ask for the kind of action that would fly in the face of reasonable success. I think we have had a good debate on this subject. I would hope that we have other debates that deal with the subject of oppression wherever it occurs in the world and that we encourage each other not to have selective vision when looking for that oppression.

I visited South Africa, not under the auspices of any Government but to work on reconciliation. I asked an Asian girl in Durban what course she was taking and she said with tears in her eyes that she was going to be a pharmacist but that when she graduated, she would get half the salary she would get if she were white. How can we accept that?

While I was in South Africa, I spoke to a black man who was the president of a bank. His brother was a medical doctor. He told us that his brother witnessed a car accident in which a white woman was hurt. The black physician went to help the white woman but a white man drove up and said: "Don't you touch her". After hearing that, I began to realize something of the evil of apartheid.

Two weeks ago, I was in East Berlin working on a human rights case. I read a document published several years ago which documents the frustrations of the Helsinki watch group behind the Iron Curtain. I read of the penalties those people face when all they want is to be free just as the black South Africans want to be free. I read of the frustrations that they face from the oppressive regime in the Soviet Union. As I said before, it does not matter whether the jackboot is in South Africa or the Soviet Union. It hurts just as much wherever it is. I would hope that Hon. Members would begin to develop a broader horizon of appreciation for the need to deal with oppression wherever it is and lay aside our partisan differences.

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, let my first words be words of appreciation to all Hon. Members who have spoken during the course of this debate this afternoon as well as words of appreciation for the caution that has been issued to us by the Hon. Member for Surrey—White Rock—North Delta (Mr. Friesen). I think that Hon. Member has earned and established in the House a reputation for fair-mindedness and careful analysis on these kinds of matters. He is one who sees beyond today's headline and who has truly paid his dues before rising to speak in the House.

I agree with the Hon. Member that we cannot be too selective in our vision. We cannot be selective in identifying and opposing oppression no matter where it exists in the world. I agree with him that we cannot put aside nor fail to see the hypocrisy of a Soviet system which would condemn an evil regime and then provide it with the fuel to drive the engine which sustains that evil regime.

● (1650)

As much as I agree with all of that, I say to myself that acknowledging the Soviet Union or other countries may on the