

S.O. 43

Grenville, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker):

That the Prime Minister respond immediately to this devastating, deplorable and tragic situation by introducing concrete, specific employment measures to halt this disastrous trend of increasing unemployment and also to put the people of Leeds-Grenville and this nation back to work.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

WEST COAST PORTS LOCK-OUT

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the adverse effect the lock-out in the British Columbia ports is having on many sectors of an economy that is already depressed, we welcome the news that the employer's association and the longshoremen are resuming negotiations this afternoon. I therefore move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Mrs. Mitchell):

That this House calls upon the two parties to carry out continuous negotiations until a settlement is reached.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POLAND—CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Madam Speaker, I rise, seeking the attention of all Hon. Members of this House, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the terms of Standing Order 43. Recent events in Poland have been shocking. On October 8, 1982, the Polish Government de-legalized the Solidarity Union in Poland, a union which received widespread support from the Polish people. In view of Canada's strong support of major international human rights agreements, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Edmonton North (Mr. Paproski) and the Hon. Member for Dauphin (Mr. Lewycky):

That this House express its strong concern and indignation at the action of the Polish Government with regard to the de-legalizing of the Solidarity Union Movement.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1415)

Mr. Flis: I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all three parties in this Parliament for supporting this motion. Two years ago the whole world rejoiced as the Polish government recognized the independent union, Solidarity. This month people around the world were shocked because Solidarity unions were delegalized. Mr. Walesa is still interned. Many of the Solidarity members are still interned. The country is still under martial law.

I know, Madam Speaker, it is not up to this Parliament to tell the Parliament of Poland what to legislate and what not to legislate, but it is the duty of this Parliament to express our strong objections when another country signs agreements on protecting people's human rights and then does not live up to these agreements. This is why, Madam Speaker, I thank all parties for supporting this motion.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): I rise, Madam Speaker, to support the motion and, of course, it is with a feeling of regret that it is only a motion moved by a government backbencher and seconded by backbenchers on this side. We lament and regret the total lack of action by the Government of Canada as represented by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in connection with the dissolution of Solidarity by the Polish government several weeks ago, and the failure to express any opposition to it.

I refer, Madam Speaker, to a release that was issued by the Government on February 23, 1982, in connection with the Polish situation. After applying some very weak sanctions to the Polish government because of the situation in Poland, ministers urged the Polish government to live up to its declared intention to re-establish civil liberties. They called upon the Polish authorities to end the state of martial law. They called upon the Polish government to release those arrested. They called upon the Polish government to restore immediately a dialogue with the Church and Solidarity.

Since the government made those pious statements it has taken no action to try to encourage the Polish government to take any of those steps. None of those steps have been taken, to the regret of us on this side of the House who feel that much sterner sanctions should have been taken. Now we have a situation where, despite these pious platitudes by the Government of Canada and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), not only are civil liberties not re-established, not only is there no dialogue between the Church and Solidarity, but Solidarity is abolished. Lech Walesa is still in prison, martial law is still in effect, and our government takes no further steps to indicate our disapproval of the Polish authorities for ignoring their obligations under the Helsinki Agreement.

We have already made suggestions that some more effective sanctions should have been taken, so we support this resolu-