

• (1630)

I am asking them earnestly, those who would listen, to move now to satisfy what has been requested by the people who face the problem head-on. Amnesty International is in the field battling to ensure that people do not disappear off the face of the earth without the opportunity for representation. And, as I said earlier, we continue to chatter.

In closing I wish to say to you, Mr. Speaker, and I was not sure that I wanted to do this or not, that I want to put on the record who it is I am asking to stop. I am asking the Government to tell them to stop now. Alcan did take some steps to disinvest, and I recognize that. But Falconbridge must do it, as must QIT-Fer, Bata, Massey-Ferguson, Bayer Foreign Investments and Cominco. Dominion Textiles and CIL must do it. The Ford Motor Company, the Moore Corporation, Delcanda International, AMCA International, International Thomson, Sternson Limited, Champion Road Machinery, Joseph E. Seagram, Cobra Emerald Mines, Eldorado and Jarvis Clark must do it. I am saying to the Government: Call them in and tell them now "Get out of South Africa". Let us stop it now. Let us make it clear that we are willing to sacrifice together. If we have to work out some way to assist them, then let us work it out. However, we can no longer afford to allow our complacency or reluctance to be the reason why one more black person should die at the hands of this evil and totally unacceptable political regime.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—North Delta): Mr. Speaker, I want to begin my remarks by putting on the record the fact that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), who has a strong commitment to be in Vancouver to deal with the issue of trade, would otherwise have been here today, as Hon. Members have acknowledged. I think Hon. Members who have spoken will understand that. They will agree that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has had a long-standing concern for many years in this area. He would have participated in this debate with vigour had he been able to be here.

I have appreciated the non-partisan nature of the debate this afternoon. It has had an elevated tone. Members have spoken from their hearts. It has really not been a political debate.

I wish to begin my remarks by picking up from a comment made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans). I think it was a fair comment, a fair observation, which I have long regarded as one of the failures of this institution; that is, we tend to have blind spots as to what the areas of our attention are and ought to be. One group focuses its attention on Nicaragua, Chile, the Middle East or the East Bloc, as the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain pointed out. It is true. We tend to have these fixations on where the aggression is, or where the oppression is, and leave out whole areas of the world where there is incredible oppression going on. In effect, we pretend it is not going on. I hope that we will use other occasions such as this to debate issues such as the

oppression in Angola where there has yet to be free elections, even though they were called for when the dictatorship of Portugal left that area. We need to discuss other areas of oppression.

I say again that the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain is right. We do have these blind spots. We do focus in a singular way on certain areas of the world while overlooking others. We must take the opportunity while debating the issue of oppression in South Africa and the humiliation of millions of people there to recognize the degradation that the black people face in South Africa as listed by Bishop Tutu. I recall that the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain listed the levels of degradation. It sounded to me as if those levels of degradation and oppression were exactly parallel to other areas of degradation and oppression in the world. It really does not matter whether the jackboot is a South African Boer, or if it is a jackboot in Eastern Europe, Chile or Nicaragua. Wherever it is it hurts God's creation just as much. What I find offensive about the institution of apartheid is not simply that racism has been institutionalized in the constitution but the fact that it has been justified in the wildest distortion of the scriptures. The justification for the so-called paternalism in certain areas of that society staggers the imagination.

I recall hearing my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), saying that the people in South Africa do not need a keeper, they need a brother. That is the message we need to send to South Africa. All of us who watched Prime Minister Botha speak on television last fall, and I believe it was in September from Durban, heard him say with jabbing finger: "Don't push us too far". None of us who have any interest or concern for those people in South Africa will forget that.

The obstinance of that Government has succeeded in making reasonable and conciliatory people, such as Chief Buthelezi, look weak. As Andrew Young of the United States pointed out last fall, that Government has succeeded in making the violent in South Africa look like the real leaders. The tragedy of South Africa is that when reconciliation and transition could take place in a peaceful and orderly way to give the entire population of that republic their just desserts, it has come through by way of bloodshed and violence.

I recall meeting a delegation from South Africa here several years ago. I told them that the first thing that their Government has to do is to give citizenship to the black people of South Africa. I said that their Government can practise racism and apartheid all along, but until they have citizenship, those people have no weapons except violence with which to fight that racism. How can it be that children and grandchildren born in the townships of that country cannot be considered citizens? Where else in the world would one find that type of incongruity, distortion and cruelty?

I wish to pay attention to the call, particularly asked for by members of the New Democratic Party today, that there be complete economic sanctions. It seems to me that the debate today has not centred on what we ought to do but how quickly