Adjournment Debate

alive. The arms race, of which Canada is very much a part, has played an enormous role in this. Let us examine some of the reasons for this, Mr. Speaker.

Throughout the seventies, Third World military spending increased faster than the GNP. Today it represents over \$100 billion in arms purchases—75 per cent of the world arms trade. This has led to the unfortunate and bizarre situation where governments, already badly in debt, have squandered precious foreign exchange on sophisticated weapons systems while neglecting the basic needs of their people.

Another reason is that the extraordinarily large amounts spent on arms by the developed countries—and increasing in the latest U.S. budget—has made it impossible for any of them to achieve the goal of 0.7 per cent of GNP for aid money, resulting in incredible, unmet, human needs in the Third World.

Yesterday the Prime Minister mentioned that the money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at some \$17 billion per year. That is a reasonable amount of money, Mr. Speaker, but it is less than the world spends on arms in two weeks.

In yet another way the world arms race has already affected the Third World, and that is by fostering hostilities among Third World nations. Frank Barnaby of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has said:

Since 1945 there have been 133 wars involving the territory of more than 70 countries and the armed forces of more than 80 states... Almost all of these wars took place in the Third World. The bulk of the weapons used in them have been supplied—through the arms trade—by the industrialized countries.

These wars have killed some 30 million people. We have failed miserably to maintain peace and security in our world, Mr. Speaker. We have allowed the insane growth of the nuclear complex. We have widened the gap between the rich and the poor nations of the world.

Canada's role in all this, I am sorry to say, has not been insignificant. We have encouraged Canadian participation in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. We have contributed to the proliferation of nuclear weaponry through our sales of nuclear technology. We are the ninth largest arms trader in the world. We sell some \$30 million annually in military commodities to Third World countries. The Prime Minister stands in this House and talks proudly of his government's role in the Third World and in disarmament. The hypocrisy of this is astounding.

If the Prime Minister is sincere—if he wants to make believers of the many Canadians who have looked on with mounting skepticism over the years as he says one thing about foreign policy and then does something quite different—then let us see some independent thought and some independent action. Let us cut the ties to the aprons of Alexander Haig and Richard Allen. Let us show considerable concern at the alarming increase in U.S. military spending as well as concern at Soviet spending. Let us not acquiesce, or too quickly agree that the world needs more nuclear weapons, as we did in December 1979 with the LRTNF program in Europe.

Let us see some action, now, on the move to a goal of 0.7 per cent of GNP for foreign aid. This pap that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) fed us this afternoon about 1990 as the target for that percentage, is another example of no action.

Kurt Waldheim has called for all nations to devote 0.1 per cent of their defence spending for peace education and peace research. Mr. Speaker, 0.1 per cent is peanuts. If the Prime Minister was sincere yesterday, if peace is important enough to him—and Lord knows it should be—why not spend 1 per cent or even 10 per cent on peace?

Canada has had an excellent reputation in the past as a creative and independent participant in the pursuit of peace. We could do so again. But it will demand a lot of political will—the same will the Prime Minister spoke of yesterday—and a lot of guts. I am not sure that this government has that will, or the guts. But I fear that our time is getting short. If something is not done soon to turn around the insanity, we may have no world left to worry about.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, permit me to use a couple of quotations. The first occurred at a meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington in 1953. I am sure that a number of members of the House will have heard it before. Addressing that meeting, President Eisenhower said:

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies—in the final sense—a theft from those who are cold and are not clothed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret I have to interrupt the hon. member.

[Translation]

Order, please. It being 10 p.m., it is my duty to inform the House that, pursuant to Standing Order 58(11), proceedings on the motion have expired.

• (2200)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

VETERANS AFFAIRS—SUGGESTED ADOPTION OF NEW INDEX AND PROVISION OF ENERGY SUPPLEMENT

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I raised a question in the House directed to the acting minister of veterans affairs suggesting the adoption of a new index and provision of an energy supplement for pensioners because of the inflation rate of 12.5 per cent and the disastrous effects on the Canadian economy of the National Energy Program. I also asked the minister a supplementary question. As reported in *Hansard* at page 7554 for February 23, 1981, it reads: