

*Oral Questions*

possible degree of support could be obtained from those countries.

● (1125)

## AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I am not questioning the Prime Minister's sincerity on this issue. I happen to hold him in high regard concerning his commitment to the issue. However, I say to the Deputy Prime Minister that he is trivializing the issue when he keeps referring to past Governments. The reality is that South Africa is on the verge of civil war. That is horribly serious as the Deputy Prime Minister will understand, I hope.

In that context, and since all the opposition Parties in the U.K. are asking that Margaret Thatcher act on the tougher options, why has the Government turned down the suggestion that it show leadership by choosing one option, the second and third on the list, which say we will not take any more agricultural imports from South Africa and that we will ban Canadian investment in South Africa? Surely that is the kind of concrete measure that the eminent persons, Bishop Tutu, and all those seriously concerned, are looking for from Canada?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** The hon. gentleman states that the Government has turned down options. He knows that is not correct. The action the Government has taken thus far in a very broad way has been highly regarded by—

**Mr. Broadbent:** By?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** World opinion.

**Mr. Nielsen:**—by world opinion, and certainly by anything I have seen or read—

**Mr. Broadbent:** By Ray Hnatyshyn.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** That is very close.

**Mr. Nielsen:**—in the media. I would remind the hon. gentleman of the statement made just yesterday by the Secretary of State for External Affairs when he said:

There is no question that the wider range of economic measures and indeed other measures which Canada might wish to take against apartheid remain to be taken. We have indicated quite clearly that if necessary we will take them.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, there are many people, including the former Prime Minister of Australia, Bishop Tutu, the united Opposition in the U.K.—even the U.S. Congress is introducing a Bill next week that would ban all U.S. investment in South Africa—demanding action. Are we as a member of the Commonwealth going to wait for the lead to come from the U.S. which is not even in the Commonwealth? I plead with the Deputy Prime Minister to

have the Government reconsider on the weekend and assume the traditional leadership role this country has had on Commonwealth matters, stand up for the black majority, and announce tough economic sanctions against South Africa.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** To hear the hon. gentleman speak, Sir, one would think we have not been doing just that. The fact is that this Government has been way out in front in taking the leadership role on this question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nielsen:** We will continue to do just that.

[*Translation*]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT NOT DELAY ACTION

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, in my view the crisis is not in South Africa but here in Canada, where the Government claims the measures it has taken are adequate. Personally, I believe these cowardly measures—I am not the only one to think so, thousands of Canadians agree with me—are sending a message to South Africa and to the whole world that the Canadian Government is willing to wait instead of acting immediately.

I would like to task the Deputy Prime Minister: Since the situation is deteriorating at the speed of light, is it still the Government's position that the situation in South Africa can wait until the August meeting of Commonwealth countries?

[*English*]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman tries to leave the impression that this Government is standing still. That is patently absurd. The actions this Government is taking and has taken, very much in a leadership role, are visible for all to see. Naturally, monitoring is an ongoing process. It is being done, and if any further steps are to be taken they will be taken. I do not know how much more positive one can be in order to get that through to the hon. gentleman.

[*Translation*]

SUGGESTION THAT UNITED STATES TAKE MORE ENERGETIC MEASURES

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. So if I understand correctly, it can wait until August. Nero fiddles while Rome burns!

I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister, since the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Bush, is here today—and I welcome him—is the Government going to take advantage of this opportunity and ask the United States to take more energetic measures immediately with respect to the situation in South Africa?