

*Supply*

of my speech, and why, once the conflict has been settled, it should concentrate on what is to happen after the war. In addition, Mr. Speaker, we must remember that many South American countries are developing countries, and that Canada, the United States and Great Britain have committed funds provided by the taxpayers of our respective countries towards reducing poverty and finding solutions to the problems facing society in developing countries, the majority of South American countries being considered as belonging to the South, in this respect.

The countries in the southern hemisphere of the Americas are understandably very distressed, and it would certainly not be appropriate to criticize them or the United Nations or the Organization of American States, because even if the latter two organizations have often failed politically, they have also to their credit some very important, though perhaps lesser known, achievements in a number of areas including literacy programs, public health, human rights, status of women, financial administration, statistics, history and geography. The Organization of American States has been very successful in all of these areas.

I believe that it will be necessary to rethink the need for continental solidarity and to seek a new approach to our common security. We shall have to find a formula that will restore peace, trust and honour to all citizens in all the countries and territories of the American continent. After this war, it will be necessary to consider a reorganization of the American states which could be based on a treaty of perpetual union with guarantees for common defence, peaceful solution of conflicts and maintenance of existing borders. Representatives of the various nations involved would have to analyse the principles and theories in favour of a union of the countries of this continent and the means by which this can be realized. Finally, a continental assembly involving all North and South American countries would have to be established for the purpose of finding a solution and rebuilding the Organization of American States.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, very few countries on the North or South American continent will be able to lead such an undertaking, and it is clear that this role will have to be played by Canada, because its influence and prestige are without equal in Central and South America; it has no colonial past and also because it has acted wisely in the position it has taken throughout this conflict, thus ensuring that some day, Canada's voice of reason will enable it to play a major and essential role in restoring peace and renewing the entire Organization of American States. Mr. Speaker, Canada is held in respect. Since the beginning of this century, it has been asked to collaborate with and to join, the Organization of American States. However, I would prefer to see my country join an Organization of American States after it has been renewed and modified to give each country a more distinctive place within the Organization than it has at the present time. I

see you are about to tell me that my time has expired, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a national poll showed that the concerns of Canadians were, first of all, high interest rates and their impact on family and business life; second, concern about their homes and their ability to keep them; and third, the matter of survival, nuclear war, and the whole state of the world in which we live. An opposition party trying to be responsible in terms of the actions of a government looks day by day at the ability of that government to meet the needs and to be seen to be addressing the needs of the people. Day by day in this House in recent weeks we in the official opposition have addressed the concerns of Canadians about the effects of interest rates and the effects of inflation and the concerns of home owners, and today it is fitting that in the name of the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) we should lift up for discussion throughout the day the matter of the failure of the government to give leadership in this third area, which these polls show is of prime concern to Canadians, in terms of Canada's place and the leadership of this government in the community of nations.

● (2110)

The motion we are debating this evening deplores the failure of the government to represent Canada properly and adequately in our external relations. Then by way of giving some focus to that broad statement, the motion zeros in on the matter of Canadian leadership, statements and actions with regard to Poland. It goes on to talk about the failure of the government to support the United Kingdom and to support the rule of law in international affairs in relation to the invasion of the Falkland Islands. It then goes on to deal with the failure of the government to retool and reinvigorate those who go out as ambassadors and commissioners on behalf of Canada in our foreign service. It then talks about the cavalier and cynicism-breeding mechanism of patronage in this department and as we have seen it in other areas. Therefore, this evening I am anxious to reflect some of the concerns about which I hear and about which those on this side of the House hear respecting the leadership of this government—or I should say the failure of leadership—which are referred to in the motion before the House.

Through the years we have come to think of Canada as a middle power. In his comments the minister spoke about responsible leadership by a middle power. He spoke about the responsibilities of Canada, but we have now come to a point where Canadian foreign policy has become so ad hoc, so expedient and so inconsistent that Canadians cannot get a picture of what is happening. As is the case with respect to economic policies from day to day, we do not know what to expect, and just as our businesses and our families cannot plan over the long term, so in the matter of foreign policy we are not able to plan or predict how we will act. Increasingly our foreign policy has become directly tied to economic struggles,