

announce any measures of substance and just engaged in what we might term hollow gestures?⁴⁶

Several of these concerns had been voiced earlier by New Democrat Pauline Jewett, who noted that while her Party welcomed "the fact that this Government, unlike Governments before it, is prepared to take some strong initiatives,...we feel that the Canadian Government is not moving with the sense of urgency that the situation demands." Ms. Jewett urged the Government to convene a Commonwealth meeting before the scheduled meeting in August.⁴⁷

The opposition continued to call for stronger measures and on the following day the House held a special debate on the deteriorating situation in South Africa at the request of Liberal MP Lloyd Axworthy.⁴⁸ During the debate Mr. Axworthy suggested that Canada could act as a catalyst for international action by unilaterally imposing a total embargo on South Africa.⁴⁹

Several MPs called for stronger specific measures by the Government. Brian Tobin of the Liberal Party suggested that "a Commonwealth which cannot respond to what is happening today in South Africa is a Commonwealth not worth saving."⁵⁰ Liberal MP, Marcel Prud'homme suggested that Canada should help the Front Line States develop alternate trade routes and markets, as well as "assist the liberation movement with the supply of humanitarian aid, medical supplies, food and the like."⁵¹

Opposition calls for stronger measures continued after the special debate.⁵² Noting that the Special Joint Committee recommended full economic

⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 14295.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 14271.

⁴⁸ Commons Debates, 13 June 1986, pp. 14362-14366.

⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 14394.

⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 14405.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 14421.

⁵² Commons Debates, 16 June 1986, p. 14447; Commons Debates, 19 June 1986, p. 14694.