

Routine Proceedings

I want to speak on one other area. That is with respect to the profound importance of fundamental economic change in South Africa as well, to address the desperate inequities between rich and poor, to attack the grinding poverty which affects the lives of tens of millions of black South Africans.

Yes, there must be constitutional change. But at the same time Canada must be doing far more in concert with other nations to address the fundamental economic crisis and the crisis of poverty that faces these people.

We can do much more.

The minister mentioned the worst drought in the history of South Africa which is affecting that region. In fact, it has been estimated that 30 million of the region's 120 million people are threatened with malnutrition, disease and starvation, particularly in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique.

Canada is contributing \$30 million. We can and we should be doing far more, particularly bearing in mind the billions of dollars spent by many countries including Canada on the war in the gulf.

In conclusion, I want again to thank the minister for giving the House this opportunity to discuss the important developments in South Africa.

The minister is reminded that Canada must be far more outspoken in insisting on an end to state-sanctioned and state-sponsored violence. We must ensure that those who are responsible are brought to justice, including those at the highest levels of the South African government. Canada must maintain strong economic and trade sanctions until that change has been truly irreversible. We must listen to the voices of the black South Africans on this question. We should listen to them as well in terms of our parliamentary relations with South Africa.

• (1040)

I must express on behalf of my colleagues our deep regret that parliamentarians from both the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party travelled to South Africa recently. They were guests of the same government of South Africa which has blood on its hands from too many deaths and which continues to refuse to recognize the rights of the black majority to justice and freedom.

I close by urging the government to hold the course, to do what it can on violence, to do what it can with respect to the drought in South Africa, with respect to the economic injustice in South Africa and of course, to ensure that at last that day will come when there is freedom and true democracy for all South Africans.

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INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION**PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF CANADA-UNITED STATES
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present today, in both official languages, the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group's report on the 33rd meeting.

I wish to say these meetings are extremely beneficial and important. This year we held in-depth discussions on economic conditions, the free trade agreement, NAFTA, the environment, fisheries, the Great Lakes and also the natural gas dispute between California and my province of Alberta. We also discussed international peace and security and human rights development.

In conclusion, the plenary session proved very intense. We all participated in debating the unity of our country, the Canadian health care system, which the U.S. delegates were very interested in, and the economic expectations for both our countries.

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REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT**SECOND REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present in both official languages the second report of the Special Committee on the Review of Employment Equity Act. Pursuant to Standing Order 109, the committee requests that the government table a comprehensive response thereto within 150 days.

I would like to expand on the recommendations of the committee very briefly and succinctly. The Employment Equity Act is the first and only of its kind in this country. It has now been in force for some five years and was subject to a review under the provisions of the act itself.