

S.O. 30

Mr. Nielsen: As my colleagues have said, that is an indication of the priorities of the Minister.

Mr. Waddell: Where is your Leader and foreign affairs spokesman then? Where are their priorities?

Mr. Nielsen: For the enlightenment of the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), I will be addressing the question of where the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) is. If the Hon. Member will recall the events today, it was after the Leader left the House to meet a commitment in the riding of the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens), our foreign affairs critic, that the Leader of the New Democratic Party came to me and sought consent for this debate. I believe I even went beyond what he asked me by consenting to the emergency debate tonight. However, that occurred after both the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and our critic had left the House. They are unavoidably absent this evening.

Mr. Prud'homme: That's the same thing. We know where their priorities are.

Mr. Gimaiel: Where are their priorities?

Mr. Nielsen: I do not think the Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Gimaiel), who would countenance any position including the adoption of communistic stances in order to retain the Liberal Party in power, should be heard to be intervening at this time.

[Translation]

Mr. Gimaiel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Gimaiel) on a point of order.

Mr. Gimaiel: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make it clear to the Opposition House Leader that my Party is the Liberal Party, not the Communist Party as he is insinuating.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Chair would appeal to Hon. Members. If we spoke to the motion that is now before the House, it would help matters greatly. The Hon. Member for Yukon has the floor.

Mr. Nielsen: In any event, I have explained the absence of the Leader and the critic.

Before embarking upon my remarks, I would like to say that I was affected by some of the remarks made by the Leader of the New Democratic Party tonight. I find that I have to reject absolutely the principle espoused by the Leader of the New Democratic Party that at no time is an intervention to prevent the takeover of a country by a tyrant ever justified. I say that to him sincerely because I have had personal experience of what acts of war are all about.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: In answer to the groans on the other side, I have been there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: I have seen countries like Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, Norway, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Greece and Africa succumb to that kind of action by states. There is a point—

Mr. Broadbent: They were attacked by another state.

Mr. Nielsen: Peace in our time. Since that time, I have seen the acts that were committed by Russia and Hungary and Czechoslovakia in Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, so there are occasions when the justification is there.

Mr. Broadbent: What about the U.S. in Guatemala and Haiti?

● (2050)

Mr. Nielsen: Surely it is premature to come to any final conclusion when all of the facts are not in. Surely it is premature to form any final judgment on the actions that we are discussing tonight.

Mr. Nystrom: Terrible. Ask Margaret Thatcher.

Mr. Nielsen: Canada has a long history of involvement with the Caribbean countries—

Some Hon. Members: Ask Margaret Thatcher.

Mr. Andre: He listened to you.

Mr. Nielsen: —from the days when Nova Scotian two-masters carried Canadian fish and other products to the Islands, up to the present when Canadian investment in the Caribbean runs to hundreds of millions of dollars in both the public and private sector. It has been a history of trade and friendship based on mutual respect for parliamentary government in the Caribbean countries of the Commonwealth, as in Canada. On many grounds, Canada has a direct and positive interest in the welfare and stability of the Caribbean Commonwealth countries.

It must be kept in mind that the current action in Grenada was initiated by the countries of the Eastern Caribbean at the request of the Governor General of Grenada and carried out with their co-operation. In the interests of lending co-operation to our neighbours in a time of stress and difficulty, it is imperative that the Government of Canada be on top of the situation, fully informed of developments, take part in the consultations that are going on and show initiative in meeting the serious problems that are developing and which is aware are developing. Unfortunately, there is little indication that this was the attitude of the Canadian Government.

The Liberal and the NDP Parties, together once again, are trying to narrow the issue to the landing of the United States troops in Grenada along with troops of six Caribbean countries. Implicit in this narrow view is that no guilt shall attach