

S.O. 29

Mr. Speaker, in my humble opinion, what the Government of Canada has proposed and the latest measures announced yesterday simply say that the Canadian Government wishes to do something, but also that it has decided to wait before taking any concrete action.

Suggesting to put an end to Canadian Government purchases in South Africa is essentially academic. It does not mean much because the Canadian Government spends an insignificant amount on purchases from South Africa. This is just another way of saying: We want to do something, but not much. If we had wanted to do a lot, we would have said: As of midnight today, Canadian private businesses will no longer be able to buy from South Africa. We would have imposed a complete embargo instead of restricting the sanctions to the insignificant amounts spent on Canadian Government purchases from South Africa. We would have told the private sector: All the restrictions which we have asked you to apply voluntarily in the last few months—and I am not going to repeat them, but there are six of them and they are well-known—all these restrictions will become mandatory as of today.

Instead of telling the private sector: "Look at us, this is what we are saying as a Government, and we expect you to understand and join in". Well, the private sector will not really join in, because to this date the Canadian Government has made symbolic gestures rather than take concrete action.

Mr. Speaker, it was proposed yesterday to stop promotion and advertising aimed at attracting tourists to South Africa.

Mr. Speaker and my friends, allow me a few laughs on a matter that is too serious for laughs. Where are the thousands of Canadians who intended to spend their holidays in South Africa, a country that is on the verge of revolution, next summer? Who will have us believe there were millions of Canadians who intended to go basking in the sun in South Africa comes next summer?

What a big laugh!

Very few Canadians had planned to go there for their holidays. Therefore, putting a stop to promotion . . . If at least they had suggested preventing people outright from going there. But even then, this would have been without effect because certainly the Canadians who want to go to South Africa these days are to be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Rearrange, reissue the visas for 4 diplomats. Those are all moves which tend to show they are doing something, while in fact they actually decided to just wait and see.

Besides, that was confirmed a few moments ago when the Minister of State (Finance) suggested: "We do not believe that this is the time for heroics". I do not find that hard to believe, having seen the most recent moves made by their Government. She keeps repeating that the Report from the Wise Men is important. How pleonastic! Everybody appreciates that. Indeed, the Report of the Wise Men has only confirmed what

any enlightened observer of the world scene had already understood several months ago.

Mr. Speaker, I draw the attention of the House and of the whole country to two questions I directed around 11:30 this morning to the Government, and which have remained unanswered.

The first question I asked the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) is this: Is it the position of the Government of Canada that we can wait until mid-August—does the situation in South Africa justify waiting until mid-August? The Deputy Prime Minister offered no clear answer. But I will tell you what I and the Liberal Party of Canada think. The simple answer is no. The situation does not afford us the luxury of waiting until mid-August. A general revolution might break out any day in that country. They are on the brink of civil war. By waiting until the meeting of Commonwealth heads we simply decide to let the situation deteriorate.

The second question I asked, and I referred to it a moment ago, is this: Will the Government take the opportunity of the American Vice-President's visit here to urge him to have his country increase the economic pressure? We all know that the trade relations between South Africa and the United States are much more important than our economic ties with South Africa.

In my judgment, Mr. Speaker, the Government is not taking enough of the kind of concrete measures which would normally flow from its rhetorical statements. And I am not the only one who thinks like that.

[English]

I am not the only one to think that the Government does not have the action to match its rhetoric. Let us look at some of the press of this morning. In the *Ottawa Citizen*, Christopher Young said "Canada must end shame of complicity". That certainly is not a message that indicates that Canada is doing enough. Claire Hoy of the *Toronto Sun* reported under the heading: "Blows at apartheid too weak". It is certainly not congratulatory. Let us just look at the beginning of this article:

Hear the sound of a marshmallow smashing into a sponge-filled mattress; the crescendo of a feather floating down from the CN Tower.

It's not a bird or a plane. It's not even Superman.

It's Canada's "sanctions" against South Africa—

In *The Globe and Mail* Tutu tells Canadians "Apply embargo now". I am not asking the Government of Canada to start believing overnight that the Opposition is always right. I am just asking the Government of Canada to wake up to the fact that we are on the verge of a blood-bath in that country.

● (1610)

More action is needed now if we are to show the way. More action is needed now if Canada is not going to look like Britain, where Sir Anthony Kershaw said last night that he did not expect the Prime Minister of Britain to come out with