

am concerned, the Governor of the Bank of Canada can just leave, whether he is disgraced or not.

Senator Doody: You promised us you were finished.

Senator Olson: I did. I am not sure, though. If that is all you have on your mind, maybe I should carry on for a little while, because apparently you are not persuaded yet.

Senator Doody: I am persuaded.

Senator Olson: If Senator Doody is persuaded and is going to help Senator Barootes carry these recommendations to the government, then I will stop. If they have got the message, that is all I wanted to say. I thank honourable senators for their attention.

• (1600)

On motion of Senator Hays, debate adjourned.

[Translation]

CANADA-EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

VISIT TO HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND,
SEPTEMBER 17-27, 1989—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the inquiry of the Honourable Senator Marsden calling the attention of the Senate to the parliamentary visit of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland from 17th to 27th September, 1989.

Hon. Jean-Marie Poitras: Honourable senators, I am very pleased to be able to share with you some comments on this trip to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland from September 17 to 27.

You already received a very detailed and complete report from Senator Marsden on this visit by a delegation from the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association which included Senators Marsden and Lefebvre and myself.

As you will recall, this delegation was led by Terry Clifford, member of Parliament and president of the Association.

I wish to tell you how well we were received by our embassies in those countries: by Their Excellencies Michael Schenstone in Warsaw, Derek Fraser in Budapest, Barry McWhinney in Prague, and by the embassy team in Poland, in the absence of the ambassador. We were very warmly received; each delegate was greeted and provided all the information needed for our meetings in both official languages. Furthermore, great care was taken to inform us adequately on the various economic and political situations that we would encounter.

I would like to pay them tribute and say to the Minister of External Affairs that we are very proud of the quality of our representatives in those countries.

By way of introduction, I would remind you, honourable senators, that those countries, like many others in that region, have been under the direct influence of Russia since the last war and more than two generations have lived under a Communist regime where freedom and human rights were violated.

[Senator Olson.]

This loss of freedom means a completely state-run economy where private enterprise, initiative and creativity are totally lacking. We in western countries have often deplored this state of affairs. Today, on their own initiative, these peoples are rising up, demanding freedom and beginning to obtain it, often with great sacrifice. They will not want to lose the liberty they have thus gained.

Honourable senators, we visited those countries at a time when they reached out to us standing tall, with great pride, not begging. We have the opportunity to tell them and especially to show them with our active support how they can enjoy this freedom. Of course, their economies are devastated and they don't know exactly where to begin. Obviously they have financial needs. There are structures to reorganize, inflation must be brought under control, trading links created and markets reconquered.

And finally, outdated administrative structures that have not changed in 40 years must be modernized, and this applies to all sectors, at all levels.

Let me explain how our own country, private enterprise and various business and professional associations can help meet the pressing needs of these countries. I believe political aid is imperative and that economic aid is absolutely necessary, and that bringing these two together will make for a very positive contribution. This country has always been very clear about the various ways in which it intends to help the newly liberated countries of Eastern Europe. There is also a distinct awareness of the indirect support that the government will provide, both morally and in the legislative sphere, through bilateral agreements that will smooth the way to new export and import initiatives.

Personally, I have taken a great interest in the matter and I have tried to help arrange for visits by Canadian businesses likely to engage in trading with the countries we visited and to promote joint ventures with federal and provincial support.

During our travels in Hungary with the president of the delegation, we visited a new international management centre. We will try to promote exchanges with this training centre, with the help of our large corporations and our universities. I had a number of meetings with trade delegates from some of these countries, and I would like to inform you that Poland, for instance, will organize a seminar for the business community in Montreal, Toronto and Calgary, in early February I believe.

Fortunately, our country and many others are prepared to provide financial support for the economic reconstruction of these countries, but we must do more, and it is up to each and everyone of us to teach them how to live in a free world, how a private sector imbued with fair, social principles will help rebuild a country, and how they can become culturally independent.

Honourable senators, I have learned from these meetings that each and everyone of us has a personal responsibility to these countries. At the beginning of the new year, we wished each other happiness and peace and I would invite you to help them experience that peace. If we all get together, in our