

International Relations

Before concluding my remarks I would like to refer again to the speech made by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) who called for Canada to play the role of intermediary in the present conflict in El Salvador. I find this motion quite interesting, because the Leader of the New Democratic Party seems to have departed from an apparently well-established rule whereby mediation is something asked for, and not just something offered by a branch of the labour movement. And since President Duarte has already indicated his opposition to any such interference on the part of Canada, or on the part of any other Canadian or American citizen, I cannot see how we could impose our services as a mediator, because this is not the proper approach, for instance in the area of labour relations. And I am quite surprised to hear this from the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

● (2130)

[English]

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, I planned to speak directly to the text of my remarks, but I think I owe the House an explanation for the encounter earlier this evening. Spontaneously I wanted to give the hon. member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle) extra time, but as I listened to and reflected upon his speech, I remembered his speech last Thursday when he launched into a personal attack on an hon. member of the House. He compared the member to Pontius Pilate, but tonight he talked about compassion and the good Samaritan. We are supposed to give him extra time when he assassinates people in character one day and talks about compassion on another day.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Friesen: I was present all afternoon for the debate. I heard the hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) make his speech. I enjoyed his speech, I thought it was a good one, it was well presented. But I did not agree with everything he said. When his 45 minutes had run out he needed extra time and no one objected.

Mr. Knowles: It was 30 minutes, not 45.

Mr. Friesen: Yes, thirty minutes, but no one objected to giving him extra time.

Miss Jewett: Are you apologizing?

Mr. Friesen: Then the hon. member for Saskatoon East wanted extra time. The two members of the NDP who were entitled to speak in this debate wanted extra time.

Miss Jewett: Why don't you read the dictionary?

Mr. Friesen: When I protect the right to speak of other hon. members of the House, the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett) calls me Benito Mussolini.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Friesen: The cheapest retreat of members of that party is to talk fascism when anyone else does not share their point of view. I know the good people of New Westminster-Coquitlam will be interested in the kind of retreat their member goes into if someone disagrees with her. It seems to me we face the old adage—members of the NDP love humanity; it is people they cannot stand.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Friesen: I hope Your Honour gives me extra time because hon. members of the NDP are interrupting me.

I enjoyed the speech of the hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party. One phrase he used captured my attention because it graphically described what is going on in El Salvador. He said that terrorism is pervasive. I think all of us would agree with him on that assessment. It reminded me of a quotation I read a few days ago in a book entitled "The Terror Network" by Claire Sterling. She quoted Lenin as having said that the purpose of terror is to terrorize. It does not matter whether it is the left or the right, both sides do it. It is no better if the left does it or the right does it; it is the same. There is no morality in terror regardless of what side it comes from.

Also I was reminded of the statement of Che Guevara not too long before he died. He was quoted at the Tricontinental Conference in Havana in 1966 as saying:

We must above all keep our hatred alive and fan it to paroxysm. Hate is a factor of struggle, intransigent hate of the enemy, hate that can push a human being beyond his natural limits and make him a cold, violent, selective, and effective killing-machine.

This was quoted in the house organ of the Red Brigade of Italy in July, 1978. Obviously it was well learned. I am not taking sides in this. Regardless of whether it is the right or the left that does it, it is wrong. The extremists on both sides in El Salvador have learned how to fulfil the wishes of Che Guevara very well. It does not matter who is doing it.

The missing ingredient in the international debate on this subject is political disinterestedness. It does not matter to whom one listens. It does not matter what speech one hears. It is in defence of one side or the other. Everyone has an axe to grind. Everyone takes sides with one or the other of the protagonists.

I listened to the hon. Leader of the NDP today when he supported the revolutionary front which is calling for a negotiated settlement—they are the good guys. Then I heard the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) supporting Duarte and his call for elections—they are the good guys. It reminded me of a grade B 1952 western where the good guys wore the white hats and the bad guys wore the black hats, but it depended upon who was speaking who wore what hat. The trouble is that the world community has divided itself into two opposing camps.

Mr. MacGuigan: It is three.

Mr. Friesen: All right, it is three. Nothing can be gained any longer because there is no political disinterestedness.