

Supply

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): It was Mayor Dewar who did that.

Mr. Flis: When the Conservative government came into power, it reduced the limit of 50,000 refugees to 35,000. Where is their humanity, compassion and sympathy? And where is their assistance for refugees?

Today I spoke with Mr. Jan Kaszuba, president of the Canadian Polish Congress, head executive board and Chairman of the Free World Polonia Co-ordinating Council. I highlight the fact that he is chairman of the Free World Polonia Co-ordinating Council. The word "Polonia" may be new to some members in this House. It means "the Polish people". I think it is quite an honour for a Canadian to be elected president of the free world council representing 24 countries and 10 million people of Polish descent beyond the boundaries of Poland. Mr. Jan Kaszuba, the president, is a great Canadian.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Flis: I would like to share with this House the latest resolutions put forth by the Canadian Polish Congress. First, is for the government to declare a total embargo on trade with the Soviet Union and suspend all present negotiations as they are the ones responsible for the crisis in Poland. Second, to stop all trade dealings with the government of the Republic of Poland, with the exception of food. The Polish Congress goes on to explain why they make this exception. Third, to recall the Canadian ambassador in Warsaw to express indignation for the violation of human rights in Poland. Fourth, to restrict or cancel consular representation of the people's republic of Poland and bring them on par with Canadian representation in Poland. Fifth, to send representations to the General Assembly of the United Nations to stop the violation of human rights in Poland.

Let us put our partisan politics aside on some issues and let us see how many of these resolutions we can implement as a government. When I say as a government, I mean the official opposition and members of the New Democratic Party. When we want to we can place our political differences in abeyance as we did last Wednesday when members and senators from all parties joined the Polish Alliance of Canada at a banquet celebrated on Parliament Hill to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of one of the oldest and largest Polish organizations in Canada.

● (2150)

In closing, if we could work in harmony during one evening outside the chamber, surely we could work together inside the House to help Canadians help the people of Poland.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his allotted time has expired.

Mr. Cousineau: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Could we obtain unanimous consent in order for the hon. member to continue?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. John Gamble (York North): Mr. Speaker, I was inclined to observe, as I listened to the performance of the hon. member for Parkdale-High Park (Mr. Flis), that there must be something missing when, having just read the latest proposed resolution of the Canadian Polish Conference, he could sit in his seat and support a party which opposed a resolution that was proposed in the House on May 17 by the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), which included the following specific provision:

—and finally, that the Canadian government replace the present symbolic and ineffective sanctions with more meaningful ones and therefore implement a full range of trade, diplomatic, and cultural sanctions against Poland and the Soviet bloc until the state of war is lifted in Poland, and human, citizen, and trade union rights are reinstated.

Of course that resolution did not obtain the approval of that member's party. While he is showing his irate fit of temper at the hon. member for St. John's West, let me ask him what is his reaction to the comments of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and how he can still remain having regard to those comments within the Liberal Party. He said:

Hopefully the military regime will be able to keep Solidarity from its excessive demands.

That was the comment of the Prime Minister immediately after the imposition of martial law. Just yesterday a newspaper carried a story about the potential release of Lech Walesa. In that newspaper article is quoted Polish Deputy Prime Minister Jerzy Ozdowski who reportedly said the following with respect to Solidarity:

It was a movement so young that it didn't take into account the realities. It was bypassing the political conditions and was striving to attain changes which were impossible to implement.

What were the changes? The attainment of freedom and liberty in a country which has long been denied it by another nation, the Soviet Union, against which the hon. member for Parkdale-High Park has not given us a whisper of complaint. Yet, his ancestral country has been subjected to the most tyrannical, imperialistic nation in the world, one which has historically robbed nations around it; imposed martial law where it could; invaded and occupied Afghanistan; used surrogates from Cuba to occupy and assist in the conduct of a civil war in Angola; gobbled up the Baltic states; took over and swallowed up, within the great empire of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine; and has never yet stepped out of a nation that it has occupied. Why has the hon. member, who has the interest of these freedom loving people at heart, not spoken out against this tyrannical regime?

I will tell the House why. It is because it would be out of character for that member of the Liberal Party to speak out against the best interests of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister went on to say:

If a military regime has the effect of preventing a civil war, I cannot inherently say it is bad.

We are talking about a regime which took over a movement that was finally trying to bring to that brave people the freedom they deserve, and the Prime Minister's comments