

S.O. 29

service at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Toronto. It was a private service on a bright Sunday. My sister, my mother and I attended with Archbishop Ted Scott whose eloquent and sensitive role is one for which I know Canadians are grateful. Bishop Arthur Brown was there, along with Reverend John Erb, and lessons were read by members of the congregation to Celeste Garnes and Mary McClarity. During the course of the service, one felt the power of this small and delicately-boned man as he smiled at the congregation and as we touched hands at the end of the service and softly sang the songs of resistance and hymns to a God many of us share. To share in that service was, I think, probably the highlight of my time in public office and will be for many years to come.

I want to bring my remarks to a close by saying what we all share in what we all want done. We want our Government to continue to take effective steps which will reflect the outpouring of care and concern from the people of this country toward the people of South Africa who have suffered so much. I know that as we proceed down this road, and we are aware, too, that time is important, we will have the support of Members of this House.

[Translation]

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to take part in this debate, in view of the alarming situation that continues to develop in South Africa. News bulletins from that country continue to give us great cause for concern. One thousand political arrests during the last two days, media censorship, the Government of South Africa prohibiting the use of television cameras or microphones to record sequences of the violence and the events that are taking place in this country. The news indicates that unless some kind of concrete and energetic measures are taken, the people of South Africa will in the days to come be facing the worst situation they have ever experienced. People are talking about a blood bath that might affect some three million people, in other words, a situation that almost parallels the losses suffered during World War II.

Last night, I watched Malcom Fraser, a member of the Eminent Persons Group and former Prime Minister of Australia, when he said that unless Western countries react very energetically, something we were already doing, they would be sending a message to black leaders in South Africa that the only option open to them was violence and revolution, because they will then have to cope with the problems of apartheid on their own. If the world does not help them, we can hardly blame them for thinking that the only way to stand up for their rights and be treated fairly is to take up arms.

Mr. Speaker, last night on the CTV network, the experts claimed that the situation in South Africa could change radically within the next ten days. This is why many of us in this country, particularly here in Parliament, on this side of the House of Commons, are indeed very concerned that certain people, especially on the Government benches, seem to think it will be enough to wait until the month of August, to look around, to try to guess what other countries will be doing before going ahead ourselves and announce strong measures. Unless my figures are badly off, Mr. Speaker, the end of a ten-

day period will fall before the month of August and that is what has me concerned. I am concerned that Canada might finally stand up, but only to close the barn door after the horse has fled, and that is what is worrying me. I am worried that this kind of approach might tarnish Canada's reputation as a country which acts responsibly at the international level so as to prevent conflicts.

Allow me to repeat what former Australian Prime Minister Malcom Fraser said yesterday—it is an opinion, but a worthwhile opinion coming from an individual who is quite familiar with the situation in South Africa: If nothing is done in the next 10 or 15 years, South Africa will fall into the Communist clan.

Anyone who can appreciate the geographical location of South Africa, at the southern tip of the African continent, anyone who realizes the strategic position of that country should bring pressure to bear on the Canadian Government so that we will do more than what we are doing now.

Mr. Speaker, this is an unprecedented opportunity to bolster the cause of colored people at the world level. It is right there before us. Will this turn out to be a missed *rendez-vous*? Are we going to let those people fend for themselves in the heart of the African continent? When we talk about South Africa, we are talking about the fortress of discrimination against Black people, about the world symbol of intolerance. This is what we are talking about. That is why all western countries must act now, and I maintain that if we wait until the month of August we will be running the risk of having hundreds of thousands of people give their life to pay for the time we want to buy to reflect further upon the concrete measures we should take as a country which can be heard on the world scene.

Our neighbors to the South, who have had so many problems and whose black people had to fight so long to have their rights recognized, understand perfectly that apartheid has to stop, and as soon as possible.

Why is it that, today, when the American Vice-President, Mr. Bush, is here in Canada and was sitting just before noon in the gallery during the Question Period, we could not succeed in having the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) admit that this was a good opportunity to ask the American Vice-President to urge his country to take concrete action and to increase substantially its economic sanctions against South Africa?

• (1600)

When I asked the question myself, I was surprised to get an evasive and hesitant answer. This is what we are going to do this afternoon. We have here the ideal person to listen to us and we are going to tell him what we think.

Mr. Speaker, I maintain that tomorrow will be too late and that we have to act now. This is not the time for pretending to take action just to appease Canadian public opinion and to lead Canadians to believe that the Government is doing enough, because I do not think that it is doing all it should.