

Adjournment Debate

unfortunately, this motion does not consider all the hues of the complex situation now existing in El Salvador. For instance, this motion assumes naively, to say the least, that the United States, our southern neighbours, are the only country to provide military aid to one of the parties in the conflict. It also suggests, quite wrongly, that it was basically the United States of America which decided to become militarily involved in El Salvador. Absolutely nothing is said about interventions by other interests, countries or ideological groups. There is complete silence in that regard. What about Cuba? No, Cuba is completely out. Even though the Nicaraguan territory has been used, this is completely ignored in the motion.

Mr. Speaker, when the Canadian people have given a group of men the responsibility to govern their country, and when these men have decisions or judgments to make about situations outside our borders, I believe the least we can expect is that they should be quite familiar with the facts. I think that unfortunately, as far as the situation in El Salvador and the rest of Central America is concerned, we have to be extremely cautious, otherwise we might make judgments which will not serve the interests of Canada and the free world, or even of the people in countries like El Salvador who deserve a better fate.

I would like to close by quoting the words of the former American ambassador to El Salvador, Mr. Robert White, who has, on several occasions, publicly opposed the military aid given by his own country to the junta which governs El Salvador. Mr. White, who saw the situation first hand for a few years and who witnessed the events in that country, wrote the following—I say all this, Mr. Speaker, to show that everything is not either black or white and that it is not only a fight between the good guys and the bad guys—as I was saying, Mr. White stated the following, as reported by *The New York Times* on March 7, only two days ago, and I quote:

[English]

No leader of the leftist forces, whether it be Ungo or (Roman) Nayorga or (Hector) Oqueli, has ever—and I have asked that they do so publicly—made any effort to stop the leftist forces from murdering, kidnapping, assassinating. The left takes bus drivers out of their vehicles and guns them down in front of the people. The day that Dr. Ungo condemns that, he starts to gain some moral authority in my eyes. The government of Napoleon Duarte, on the other hand, and many of the moderate military officers, have explicitly condemned the excesses of the security forces. They have tried and thrown out a large number of enlisted people and have transferred a number of officers out of the line of command.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude in pointing out that conditions are not as simple as we are led to believe, that the United States have to assume their responsibilities in the face of strategic interests and on behalf of world peace and also because we cannot allow the setting up of another Cuba on the doorstep of the United States we can deplore such conditions, but if we have to ask the American government to stop such arms shipments we should in the first place make sure that arms shipments from other sources do not reach El Salvador.

● (2200)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being ten o'clock, it is my duty to inform the House that, pursuant to Standing Order 58(11), the proceedings on the motion of the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) have expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

PUBLIC SERVICE—DISPUTE INVOLVING VETERINARIANS IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC—EFFORTS TO REACH SETTLEMENT

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, on February 26, as reported on page 7700 of *Hansard*, I directed a question to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston). Because of a totally unacceptable salary range, the Health of Animals Branch of Agriculture Canada has been having a rather difficult time recruiting veterinarians. This salary range is a discouragement to veterinarians to make a career for themselves in government service.

The starting salary for veterinarians in the federal service is not only a deterrent to recruiting, but a direct insult to the veterinary profession. To every veterinarian in the country, to be offered such a ridiculously low salary range after six years of university training, is an insult. That is the main reason why we have a serious shortage of veterinarians in the federal service today. What irritates me more is that no apparent honest effort has been made by the government and the Treasury Board up to now to alleviate this very serious situation.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) stated last week, in response to a question from the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster), that there were 23 veterinary vacancies in his department. However, what the minister did not say is that there is an additional 198 veterinary job vacancies in the federal service that would be open and pursued if only personnel was available.

The Government of Canada has chosen to ignore this ever-increasing and ever-alarming vacancy rate in the federal service, which has increased over the past few years. If this shortage of federal veterinarians is not acted upon very soon, the health of Canadians will be in jeopardy. Not only will it have an effect on the health of our people but it will have an effect, as well, on the safety, security and economy of our country. The consequence of the consumption of uninspected or inadequately inspected meat and meat byproducts, which make up more than 40 per cent of the Canadian consumers'