

Government Orders

[English]

Canada is determined that the impasse in Haiti not continue indefinitely. The illegitimate regime in Haiti has strangled every attempt to restore democracy to the Haitian people. Canada will continue to enforce sanctions as we all agreed last October.

[Translation]

The minister tells us that he does not want this impasse to continue indefinitely, but that is what is happening. This is not the first time that representatives of the government in this House make fine speeches in an attempt to encourage and pacify the Haitian community in Canada. What has the Government of Canada done concretely and specifically to restore democracy in Haiti? Nothing. Absolutely nothing concrete, except fine speeches at the United Nations or to the Organization of American States.

The purpose of my colleague's proposal is to get the government to do something, to put pressure on other member countries of the Organization of American States and on the United Nations to take concrete action. It would put the military regime, which has ruled that country for too long, in its place and prevent it from governing Haiti as it has governed there for too long, so that the voice of the people, expressed in free elections, can prevail and a duly elected president can govern unhindered, not as it is now and has been for too long.

If the president of Haiti is not in league with the military, he is overthrown and replaced. He is a puppet who apparently leads but in fact the military rule the Haitian state. Democracy in that country is violated in the worst way, and the minister's few nice speeches to the United Nations or the Organization of American States will not change anything.

The parliamentary secretary seems to be surprised that we are coming back to it now with an amendment to the resolution we supported before. Of course, all hon. members supported the government's motion to put an embargo on Haiti and ensure that special economic measures were taken against those who usurped power in Haiti and to put those unlawful rulers in their place so that democracy could be restored. At that time, we thought that the government was serious in its efforts and that this embargo would force those who had usurped power in Haiti to give up and make way for

democracy. Several months later, we find that the situation has not changed. The military still control the country from behind the scenes and impose a military dictatorship on that nation, which is one of the poorest and most disadvantaged on earth.

In the name of human solidarity, I ask the government to have more conviction than merely to utter fine words.

• (1730)

I am particularly serious about this since I have the pleasure of knowing many Haitians who live in the Montreal area and who often talk to me or my colleagues, either the hon. member for Saint-Denis or the hon. member for Saint-Léonard or the hon. member for Saint-Laurent, who all have constituents of Haitian origin. We talk to these people, and we are constantly told they feel the government has treated them unfairly—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but it being 5.30 p.m., pursuant to order adopted earlier today, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith all questions necessary to dispose of the motion now before the House.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): In my opinion the nays have it.

Some hon. members: On division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Motion lost, on division.

Motion negatived.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It being 5.30 p.m., pursuant to order adopted earlier today, the House will now proceed to consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.