

Mr. Mulroney: And we said absolutely yes. The only thing that we would not do was allow the Auditor General access to the papers of the former Prime Minister and his predecessor because we believe in British parliamentary tradition. That was done in order to protect the papers of the former Prime Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: We will refer this matter to a parliamentary committee. We will expect everybody to be heard. Having turned down the Auditor General with regard to Petro-Canada, if my hon. friend wants to go before a committee, the Auditor General will tell him and any Member of the House that the only reticence the Prime Minister had was with regard to the Auditor General digging into the papers of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and of the Right Hon. Pierre Trudeau because I said that that was unacceptable, and I believe it to be unacceptable. The rest the Auditor General can have.

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APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—REQUEST FOR SANCTIONS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister who has been quoted as saying that there are loud voices rejecting sanctions directed against the South African regime, voices to which presumably he is listening. Can the Prime Minister tell us what loud voices he is hearing which would shout out the 77 per cent of black Africans and their most respected leaders who are demanding sanctions in support of their struggle?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the House has noted and would join with me in expressing approval for the statement made by the President of the United States today announcing some sanctions against South Africa. I point out to Members of the House of Commons that the sanctions announced by the United States at noon today were, by and large, sanctions announced by the Government of Canada in early July.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): It is the view of this Government that it is now essential for us to do everything that we can to encourage change in an offensive and unacceptable regime in South Africa. For the moment, that involves maintaining steady pressure upon South Africa. Obviously, if we have to resort to the full disruption of economic and diplomatic relations, we are prepared to do so if other measures do not work. However, most of us in this House believe that it is important to keep a door open and to use the influence that we now have, rather than to spend it immediately in a gesture that may be more effective in terms of public relations at home than it would be in ending apartheid in South Africa.

Oral Questions

CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, first I would suggest that the Government listen to those who are fighting for their freedom in order to determine what sacrifices they should be making. I would ask the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs when Canada will get leadership. This is ridiculous. Constructive engagement is ending down South while Canada, to whom the world is looking for leadership, is still silent. The Americans are being more forceful than the Canadians.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, what is at issue here is what steps Canada can take to end an offensive regime in South Africa. What is at issue here is not how loudly our voices will speak but how loudly our actions will speak.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): To use the word "leadership", we have already demonstrated leadership in the actions and sanctions that were announced in July. Those Canadian initiatives were followed by similar initiatives in Australia, Japan, France, and now the United States. We intend to continue to play a leading role. I expect to make a statement on the response not only of this Government but, I hope, of this country to the South African situation later this week in the House.

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BANKS AND BANKING

CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK COLLAPSE—RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I do not believe that it has gone unnoticed that the questions put in the House relating to the Canadian Commercial Bank have been replied to by the Minister of State for Finance. The Minister of State for Finance may have been delegated certain responsibilities. However, the statutory and parliamentary responsibility for the stability of our financial institutions and for the management of this country's economy rests always with the Minister of Finance. I would ask the Prime Minister why it is that the Minister of Finance has not been addressing this question in the House. Would the Prime Minister assure us that he still retains confidence in that Minister?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, because it is Day One, I will dignify a frivolous question with an answer.

Ms. Copps: It's not frivolous to the Canadian people.

Mr. Mulroney: My right hon. friend knows full well that the Minister of State for Finance has performed extremely well,