

holocaust so that our children can fulfil their lives, then I will have succeeded.

I have seen the Sowetos of South Africa, the poverty of Bombay, the dying of Ethiopia. I have seen the discipline of Japan, the down underness of New Zealand, the confidence of the U.S.A., and I can assure you, this House, and this country, that people are the same all over the world. Food and water, shelter and warmth, education and medical care, security and love, whether a housewife in the Soviet Union or a nursing mother in Same, Tanzania; whether black, yellow, white or mixed origins, the needs of these people are fundamentally exactly the same as ours.

I have lived their needs and I have been a daily part of their personal priorities. As a civilized, educated, and learned people, we can only come to one conclusion, one conclusion that easterners, westerners, northerners, and southerners, developed and developing, must all share; one conclusion that will put us on a track to sanity, peace, and world security; one conclusion that should, must, and will be unanimous, the conclusion that continued nuclear armament is total madness.

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PARLIAMENT HILL

ERECTION OF DIEFENBAKER STATUE ADVOCATED

Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, politicians love statues and pigeons love statues, but it appears that the former Government had little love for certain statues. Last week it was revealed in the press that the Right Hon. Lester Pearson had commissioned four statues as part of Canada's centennial celebration in 1967. Two Liberal Prime Ministers were to be honoured, Mackenzie King and St. Laurent, and two Conservative Prime Ministers, Bennett and Meighen. Oddly enough, only the Liberal statues made it to Parliament Hill; the others were either rejected in model form or stored away upon completion.

The old saying goes that "nobody ever raised a statue to a critic", so I do not want to appear too critical today. Nor would I want to see Parliament Hill overrun with too many monuments. However, I think it is important to support the proposal of my colleague from Scarborough Centre that a memorial be erected in honour of one of the country's greatest Prime Ministers, the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker.

● (1115)

Perhaps it might also be timely to raise a memorial to that other, more recent Prime Minister, the one who goes for long walks in the snow. I strongly suggest that such a statue, with all the fingers in the right place, be erected in Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENDANCE—INVITATION TO MEET JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount): Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of yesterday's election in Ontario I can understand why the Deputy Prime Minister is not radiating his usual good humour and benevolence. In fact there is a rumour around to the effect that he lost a substantial bet to his very Liberal brother, Leslie.

To turn to the matters before us today, the Prime Minister's office has been promoting the absurd fiction that the Prime Minister has more credibility in the international arena than Pierre Elliott Trudeau. I suggest to the Deputy Prime Minister that that is much like comparing a college freshman to a learned and wise professor or, in a hockey analogy, a Johnston to a Gretsky.

The Prime Minister's actions during his current trip have left Canadians concerned and dumbfounded. Would the Deputy Prime Minister explain to the House what possible reason Canada's Prime Minister could have for rudely rejecting an invitation to meet with Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan to discuss economic issues of mutual concern? What on earth are these economic summits for? Can the Deputy Prime Minister explain the inexplicable to Canadians?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that was quite a bundle to roll into one question. It is quite unfair of the Hon. Member to twist, warp, and distort as he has done. He mentions the efforts of Mr. Trudeau. I just happen to have *The Toronto Star* article of yesterday here in which our Prime Minister is quoted as saying:

Like all of us, he (Trudeau) had his successes and his failures. That's the lot of a politician. He played his role as he saw it on the international scene and I have in the past indicated my admiration for the objectives he sought.

I think it is unkind and untrue for the Hon. Member to make that kind of snide reference.

With respect to his use of the terminology "rejected" in relation to a visit with Mr. Nakasone, that also is not true. The report in *The Globe and Mail* today, which the Hon. Member is repeating, is pure speculation with respect to the Prime Minister's itinerary which was designed well in advance of his visit. The explanation that he has given for having to defer that visit with Mr. Nakasone is quite understandable and should be accepted by Members of the House.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I have grown used to the public explanations in this Chamber. I am sure that privately the Deputy Prime Minister must feel concerned and somewhat dumbfounded, as we all do.