

*Supply—External Affairs*

recent debate on the Spanish situation. I am quoting from the British Hansard of Wednesday, March 16, 1938. Sir Archibald Sinclair said:

At the same time, I have never disguised the fact that I sympathize with the Spanish government. I know that other hon. members who are just as patriotic citizens as I am sympathize with General Franco. My sympathies with the Spanish government are due mainly to three reasons: first, that they are fighting for the cause of freedom against a Fascist form of government; secondly, as it seems to me, that the intervention by Italy and Germany in the affairs of Spain is contrary to the efforts which the democratic nations of the world are making to place the relationships between nations on the basis of the rule of law instead of force; and thirdly, that I believe the occupation of Spain by Italian and German forces would be the gravest threat to the national and imperial interests of this country.

Mr. MARTIN: And he might have added, by Russian forces.

Mr. MacINNIS: You are not going to lead me off by a statement of that kind. Russia joined the non-intervention committee, as she stated at the league assembly in 1936, simply because she thought it might help maintain peace. She was willing to observe the non-intervention pact provided the other members of the committee would do so, and there has been no occasion in that connection in which the contrary has been proved with regard to Russia.

Further on Sir Archibald Sinclair states that at one time he felt that a non-intervention agreement by the nations of Europe might help bring about a speedy conclusion of the trouble in Spain and might prevent war, but he says he now realizes that this cannot be done. Let me say again, let us concede our mistake. Let us rectify it at the earliest moment possible. Let it be granted that we were actuated by the best possible motives. Let it be granted that the failure of our good intentions was not our fault. This point has seemed clear to me for a long time. I have watched the Spanish situation I think as closely as anyone could possibly watch it at this distance, and it seemed to me very soon after the trouble started that the policy of the democratic countries towards Spain could only end in one of two ways, by either forcing a fascist dictatorship or a communist dictatorship on the Spanish people. If Franco wins, Spain will be fascist and the forces of fascism will be that much stronger. If the Loyalist forces win, as the situation is to-day, communism will have received an enormous boost, and to that extent the forces of democracy—that democracy we say we uphold—will lose. Those

[Mr. MacInnis.]

who favour communism in Spain will be able to say, if the Loyalists win—which is not very likely under present circumstances—"You were forsaken by the democratic countries," and they will be right. "They tried to foist upon you the yoke of fascism," and it seems to me they will be right also in saying that. "Democracy is your enemy." Under the present situation what can those of us who favour democracy say? What can we in Canada say or do, except to bow our heads in shame and admit the truth of such statements? Let me again ask the members of this committee, as members of the Canadian House of Commons, to assert their right and make clear their belief in democracy, in justice and equity as between nations, and ask the government to rescind the order in council which imposed this embargo against the legally elected government of Spain.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Chairman, I have no intention of following what the last speaker (Mr. MacInnis) has said. We have heard these pacifist speeches in the house before. At last parliament has an opportunity of considering the external affairs of this country, which are a trust administered by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). Last Tuesday he brought down his message. I have no quarrel whatever with what he said; my objection is to what he did not say. At no time in the history of this empire has it been more necessary for the Dominion of Canada to give support, even if it is only moral support, to the motherland.

The main statement made by the Prime Minister was that parliament would decide in future, if trouble came, as the circumstances of the case required. In his address there was no such reference as I believe a large majority of the people of Canada would like to have heard, following the imperial conference of last year and the visits of the Prime Minister to Hitler, to France and other places, that we owed the mother country something for what it has done to protect our shores in season and out. I was surprised that something was not said along the line of what Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated, that when England is at war Canada is at war also. I believe if ever the time comes again this country will do its duty towards the motherland, as it has always done it in the past.

The Prime Minister talks about parliament deciding the matter. Why, before parliament could be called together the enemy could have sent an air fleet up the St. Lawrence