

Housing

uncertain terms an additional reason for resigning from the government. He believes sincerely and has always believed sincerely that the best way of preserving world peace is through collective security. With that we in the opposition, thoroughly agree. He believes the greatest contribution this country can make to peace is as a member of NATO. He believes we ought to fulfil our obligations to our NATO allies and not withdraw from those obligations. The Deputy Prime Minister is convinced that we cannot have world peace through collective security if we withdraw our forces from NATO and set the rest of the world the regrettable example that was first set by France. Such an example may encourage smaller nations wishing to make a lesser contribution to NATO to do so. As a former Minister of National Defence familiar with these problems, the Deputy Prime Minister knows perfectly well that once you start setting an example of withdrawing from the NATO alliance it will not be very long before there is no NATO alliance that is of any value at all. If that were to happen our chances of preserving world peace would diminish in direct proportion to the weakening of the alliance.

The Deputy Prime Minister knows perfectly well that world wars have come about because aggressors have misjudged the will of the western allies to withstand aggression. That is how World War I and II began. He knows perfectly well that our potential adversary, the Soviet Union, has not changed its attitude one bit in the last 25 years. What happened to Hungary and Czechoslovakia shows that to be true. He knows perfectly well that this government's attitude towards NATO weakens our chances of stopping World War III from beginning. That is one of the fundamental reasons why the Deputy Prime Minister has found it necessary to resign from this government.

His decision was the most difficult decision that any man in public life has to make. His decision must have been taken after a great deal of thought and consideration; it must have been taken with great regret on the basis that he could not, in all conscience, continue as a member of a government that refuses to face its responsibilities in dealing with the practical problems of the people of this country.

The minister says that the people of this country cannot wait for the Prime Minister to debate these constitutional issues. These matters must be dealt with now. Because the

government of which he was a member refused to deal with these matters he found it necessary to resign. That course of action could well be considered by other members of this government who, as is commonly known, disagree strongly with government policies affecting matters of national importance.

In conclusion, may I say that the views I have expressed this afternoon have not been the views of the opposition alone. I have placed before the house views expressed by the second most senior member in this house, the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, and I have elaborated on what he said in his declaration of resignation yesterday. I say to the Prime Minister, let us not be content to only debate these questions. I say he ought to come out of the classroom where, as the Deputy Prime Minister suggested, he is spending too much of his time. Let the Prime Minister get on with the job of fulfilling the promises he made to the people of Canada last June, because on the strength of those promises he was elected. Let him get down to business, as the Deputy Prime Minister has told him to do, get on with the job and produce the results that he assured the people of Canada he would produce if he were elected.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, since many of the arguments I intended to raise have already been covered, I shall be brief. There is no difficulty in accepting the premise that there is a housing crisis. The evidence is there for all to see. It speaks for itself. The Minister resigned because, as has been pointed out by other speakers, his complaint is that the government has no policy in the field of housing and does not intend to implement any suggested policy. I think the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) described the housing crisis adequately. The only answer the minister received to his complaints was that housing is a matter for the provinces or the cities and that the constitution precludes this government from taking any positive steps to solve this problem.

One need not be a constitutional expert to appreciate that the constitution of any land should serve its people and not make servants of them. After all, every constitution changes. Although the wording of a constitution may not be amended, the meanings of words change. In some ways constitutions are like growing trees. They can be interpreted differently under different circumstances.