

*Economic Relations with United States*

have waited until the United States inevitably takes the same step and we follow it meekly? Is that his policy?

**An hon. Member:** Sure.

**Mr. Sharp:** It is not mine.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sharp:** The hon. gentleman seemed to suggest that somehow we had stood out in the United Nations as the one country that had flown in the face of American public opinion and voted in favour of the Albanian resolution. He knows very well, though he omitted to mention it as he made a selective reading of other matters, that Canada voted alongside all the NATO countries except the United States. We voted with over two-thirds of the full membership of the United Nations. Now, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that we are acting in a thoroughly logical, responsible and reasonable way. I do think, however, that perhaps we deserve a little bit of credit for having led the procession. It was our action in the establishment of diplomatic relations with Peking that caused many countries to think again about whether they wanted the People's Republic of China or the Republic of China government in the United Nations and they came out in our favour.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brewin:** It was so good it should have been done years before.

**Mr. Sharp:** That could be. We are cultivating relations on a broader front in this world because I believe that is in the Canadian interest; I believe it is in the world interest and I believe it is in the interest of world peace. I believe we are in a position from time to time, even though we are not a very big country, to take useful initiatives and in recent years I think we have done this. I make no apology for it and I certainly do not think it should be termed anti-American, not at all. I think that the United States is rather pleased that Canada was in a position to take some of these initiatives for which they had not quite prepared their own people.

On the question of the Nixon economic measures, Mr. Speaker, I need hardly say that these were not directed against Canada. I have seen some rather silly statements—I must say they were not made in this debate and I hope they will not be—to the effect that somehow the economic measures taken by the United States are directed against us because the United States is not happy with our policy.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Who made them?

**Mr. Sharp:** Obviously, this is not so but these are the sort of statements that have been made.

**Mr. MacInnis:** By whom?

**Mr. Sharp:** I should like to take this occasion to say that these are obviously a lot—

**Mr. MacInnis:** Who were they made by?

**Mr. Sharp:** Various people.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Name them.

**Mr. Sharp:** I think that obviously—

**Mr. MacInnis:** Why bring it up if you are not prepared to name names? Why bring it up?

**An hon. Member:** Oh, sit down.

**Mr. MacInnis:** It is just a question of guts, that's all.

**Mr. Gibson:** You are not impressing anyone.

**Mr. Sharp:** I met with my Mexican colleagues the other day. We were exchanging views about the American economic policies and I told them that it had been suggested that we did not get an exemption from these measures because the United States was not happy with us and that some sort of retaliation was involved. I mentioned that I expected they were very much affected as well. They replied that they were but they did not think they had done anything to deserve the kind of measures taken against them by the United States. I said, "We are in the fortunate position of having a balance of payment surplus, while you are in balance of payment difficulties." If the United States had wanted to have a selective policy they would have left Mexico out. In effect, these measures were applied by the United States on a universal basis and were not directed particularly against us or anyone.

There are some other issues, Mr. Speaker, upon which the United States and Canada differ. I would draw your attention, for instance, to the Arctic legislation and the law of the sea. I would remind the House that the government acted with the full support of this House. Indeed, as I recall, it was one of those few occasions when this House acted unanimously.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baldwin:** Give us something to be unanimous about.

**Mr. Sharp:** In regard to Amchitka, I have spoken already about the almost unanimous views expressed in this House. I do not think it is a matter on which the opposition can criticize the government for defending Canadian interests or for expressing its opposition, both on the grounds of the dangers to the environment and the need for a complete test ban.

**Mr. MacInnis:** You are speaking of October 4, I take it.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, in conclusion—

**Mr. MacInnis:** Let's deal with October 4.

**Mr. Sharp:**—I should like to return to a fundamental principle of relationships between nations. Profound disagreements—and there are some between Canada and the United States, let us not gloss them over—need not endanger nor even impair close and harmonious relations. In the whole course of events since August 15, which was referred to specifically by my hon. friend, communications between the governments have been as forthright and free as ever and probably more voluminous than at any period in living memory. Contact and communication at the ministerial level and between officials have been constant. I have had many conversations with Secretary Rogers on these subjects. The hon. member for Hillsborough said that I have not been in direct and personal contact with Secretary Rogers—I think that is what he