

time, but that this information would be given to us later.

A few days later the honourable Senator White placed upon *Hansard* a series of questions addressed to the Leader of the Government about the position of our troops in Cyprus, about their mandate there, the limitations placed upon them, who would be responsible for their pensions in the case of losses, and so forth.

I have not seen a reply to those questions. It may be they have been given privately to Senator White, although I do not believe so because I do not think that Senator White and Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) would regard Cyprus as their private domain. As these questions were placed on *Hansard* they should be answered on *Hansard*, and if security prohibited their answer we should have been told. This is one of the things that a committee such as that proposed could do. It need not restrict itself to some vague ideas of what we might do about the Commonwealth.

There is the question of the UN. Surely a committee of this kind should try to get more information about our position with respect to the UN. Mr. Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, speaking yesterday in London said that there was some uneasiness about that position. Indeed, he said that he was urging that some other nations now come in and help us with respect to Cyprus. But we do not hear much about these things here in the Parliament of Canada. That is my complaint. These things should be discussed here in Canada.

We have our statesmen going abroad and making speeches at universities and other places and declaring what is purported to be Canadian policy. Honourable senators, the policy of Canada with respect to foreign affairs, with respect to its position affecting any country, should be stated in Canada, in the Parliament of Canada, and nowhere else.

I do not know what our position is with respect to the United Nations. It is almost impossible to get authoritative information. We had last summer a meeting in this city of many nations, and UN Secretary-General U Thant was among those present. U Thant was asked whether he believed there could be a settlement of the dispute over the payment by Russia, France and other countries of their dues to the United Nations. What did he say? He said he was in no doubt whatever about the fact that the matter could be settled, and would be settled. Well, it was not, and you have to ask yourselves: What was U Thant thinking about?

Incidentally, I am referring to the meeting at which he said that Mr. Goldwater should have his head read for suggesting that bombs be used in North Viet Nam. I do not know what he thinks about what is happening in North Viet Nam now.

I could go on about these things, but I come back to this test of membership to mention one more thing. We are told that there is going to be set up a secretariat for the Commonwealth. Honourable senators, if that secretariat is going to be merely a clearing house for Commonwealth information, well and good, but if it means only that, then why are we discussing the possibility or the probability of one of the ablest foreign officers in this country, Mr. Arnold Smith, becoming a member of it? If it is to be merely a clearing house, what will Mr. Arnold Smith be doing there?

I do not know what is being set up, but I think this committee could very properly ask: (1) How is such a secretariat to be appointed; (2) Who will decide what matters are to come before it; (3) What authority is to be vested in it; (4) To what representative body will it be responsible; and (5) Will it operate from London, Ottawa, or Canberra?

It may well be that such a secretariat could do good and useful work, but if it represents a trend back to the thinking of Mr. Lionel Curtis and Mr. Philip Kerr, to the old Round Table group, to the thinking that still goes on at Chatham House, then I am against it, and I think this country traditionally has been against such things from the days of Wilfrid Laurier down to the days of the present Prime Minister. These are the things that this committee should inquire into.

Honourable senators, I would be sorry if any of you, because of what I am saying, concluded that I am against the Commonwealth. I am very much for the Commonwealth. One of the dearest wishes in my heart for years has been the wish that Ireland, free, united and independent, would return to it—that Ireland, united north and south, will be in the commonwealth where she belongs, and with which so much of her history and a lot of her blood are co-mingled. As one of the greatest of Irish patriots, Henry Grattan, said:

The Irish Sea cries out against union,
but the Atlantic thunders against separation.

That is why I believe in the Commonwealth. But I also believe we should look on the Commonwealth and know what it is we are