

External Affairs

I believe he manifested some courage in what he said and attempted to do at the Caracas conference. I cannot help feeling that the minister may have slapped his wrist, and I do not believe Mr. Dulles' actions call for that sort of treatment, for if there ever was a time when courage and confidence are required at conferences it is today.

I would like to say in passing, Mr. Speaker, one or two things about the Prime Minister's speech. But before doing so I would like to compliment the Prime Minister for the very fine speech he made the other day when he returned from his world tour. I think everyone enjoyed that speech. The Prime Minister did not attempt to go into the various details of his conversations with various dignitaries and men holding official positions in various governments, but he gave us a very delightful review of his trip and I believe we all felt very happy that he was able to enjoy such a trip.

When he was speaking to us yesterday I thought we would have heard something more with respect to the things he discussed with other world leaders and a little bit more of what we might expect with respect to our relationship with them. Of course, I am quite conscious of the fact that, as he spoke with them, whatever he learned or whatever advice he was able to give results in government policy; and perhaps we cannot expect him to reveal to us at this time too much with respect to government policy as it may take place in days to come.

But there is one thing I would point out and it is this. Almost the entire speech made by the Prime Minister yesterday was confined to an explanation of his remarks to the press respecting the recognition of China. It is difficult for me to think that such mistakes were made with respect to any interviews the press may have had with the Prime Minister. I find it difficult for this reason. I am quite certain that the reporters wanted to report as accurately as possible; and I am quite certain that the Prime Minister is a seasoned "interviewee". When it comes to a question of the recognition of China, surely the Prime Minister should have watched his words most carefully. I know that the Prime Minister has said that sometimes these questions in press interviews are put to one with machine-gun rapidity, but that does not mean to say that they must be answered with machine-gun rapidity. When a question of such great importance as this was put to him it seems to me that he should have weighed his answer carefully, watched every word and determined that what went into the press was exactly what he said. Let me say this, Mr. Speaker. If there was no

intention whatsoever of recognizing China, it would not have been difficult for the Prime Minister, in answer to a question of that kind, to say "No", that is the answer, and put it down "n-o"; that would have settled it. But that is not what was reported and that is not what the Prime Minister said. Because he did not give a flat "no", complications arose.

The Prime Minister had talked with Mr. Nehru. We all know what Mr. Nehru's position is with respect to this matter. I am wondering if he did not influence the Prime Minister to the extent that he was toying with the idea, and nobody is going to tell me that the Department of External Affairs has not been toying with the idea of recognizing China.

Another thing I want to point out is this. The Prime Minister had a good deal to say with respect to what might be the meaning of the word "recognition"; and in amplifying that theme, he stated that at the present time the government had no intention of diplomatic recognition. However, he carefully avoided telling us one thing; at least, if he did not carefully avoid it, it is a singular thing that he did not tell us whether or not they would support recognition of China at the United Nations.

An hon. Member: Red China.

Mr. Hansell: Yes; Red China, if you wish to put it that way. When the Secretary of State for External Affairs replies, Mr. Speaker, and I am wondering whether he is listening to me—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: We are all listening to you.

Mr. Hansell: He had better listen to this because we want an answer. We want to know whether or not when he goes to the United Nations he is going to acquiesce in the pressure that is put on there for the recognition of Red China in the United Nations. I think we should have an answer to that question when the minister replies.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I may not have a chance to reply for a very long time, I had better say at once that the answer to that question is no. I do not intend to acquiesce to that kind of pressure or indeed to the pressure of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Hansell: I am highly pleased with the answer and I think we all should be pleased with it. I will shake the minister's hand at any time on that answer. As to