

Adjournment Debate

we could call him, in the United States for the office of the presidency of the United States has said:

We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.

If any caption could characterize the comments made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) on television last Sunday it is the statement of Mr. John Anderson which really captures what the minister said, "—the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought". Talk about comfort of opinion! I should like to read to you, Mr. Speaker, one of the things the Secretary of State for External Affairs said, as follows:

I see no indication at all of any Soviet activity in Europe that would be aggressively directed against a country that they don't now control directly or indirectly.

That is the minister's opinion. For the facts, I should like to quote Mr. Alexander Haig who, I imagine, is an authority on the subject. He said:

Whereas the west has exercised considerable restraint, . . . we find the Soviet Union has maintained defence as its first and overriding priority. Former western superiority . . . has been replaced by a roughly 3:1 superiority by the Soviets.

If, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs says, there is no aggressive intention, pray tell why have the Soviets increased their superiority to a ratio of three to one? Another authority, Mr. Kissinger said this:

The dominant fact of the current military situation is that the NATO countries are falling behind in every significant military category with the possible exception of naval forces . . . Never in history has it happened that a nation achieved superiority in all significant weapons' categories without seeking to translate it at some point into foreign policy benefit.

That, sir, is the situation in Europe, a situation in which the Secretary of State for External Affairs says there are no aggressive intentions by the Soviet Union. It is the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) allows that maybe we should have been a little bit guilty of foresight rather than hindsight, when questioned in the House about this yesterday.

Again, speaking of the Soviet Union the Secretary of State for External Affairs said:

They don't go against the heart of western civilization and western Europe, for instance, except maybe through the communist parties—

So the Soviets are nice guys! "They don't go against the heart of western civilization and western Europe." Then pray tell, why did we, 18 months ago, expel a dozen or so Soviet so-called diplomats if they all had nice intentions in Canada? Why is it that we are concerned and our NATO allies in Europe are concerned about NATO superiority, or at least NATO balances if, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs maintains, the Soviets, "don't go against the heart of western civilization and western Europe."

He is living in Alice in Wonderland. He went on to say that the Soviets will not attempt an adventure in western Europe. He added:

I think that's completely out of the question.

That is the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought. As I said, the Prime Minister allowed that maybe we

should have been guilty of a little bit of foresight rather than hindsight. In effect, on Sunday on television the Secretary of State for External Affairs asked where the United States was two years ago, or three years ago, when the Soviets moved into Kabul. Where were they? Well, I do not know exactly where the Soviets were or the Americans were, but I do know where Canada was. Two years ago when the Russians were already in Kabul establishing a puppet regime, Canada was installing a printing press in Afghanistan so that the Afghanistan people could print their material. I am sure it is all nice Alice in Wonderland stuff they were printing. Canada went right on selling them their printing press.

● (2205)

Two years ago, when the puppet regime was already in office, Canadians were designing the Kabul water and sewage system in Afghanistan. Two years ago, when the Secretary of State for External Affairs was wondering where the Americans were, the Canadians were studying the Kabul River basin for storage, power and irrigation purposes. This was being done by a Montreal firm. Canadians were doing a hydroelectric survey, done I might add, by B.C. Hydro.

Two years ago the Secretary of State for External Affairs was wondering where the Americans were. The Canadians were supporting the establishment of a girl's vocational training school, done by the Red River College in Manitoba.

If the minister wants to question America's leadership, I ask him where Canada was during those days. I would like to ask, as I did in the House yesterday, what was the purpose for the unprovoked gratuitous comment about the lack of American leadership during the time of a pre-election campaign in the United States? What was the purpose of those gratuitous, unsolicited comments by the man who is supposed to be the master of diplomacy?

If in the last year when we had two general election campaigns in Canada, plus a heavy referendum campaign, the Americans had offered that kind of comment regarding the internal and domestic politics of our country, we would have been infuriated, and rightly so. Yet this man at the end of a TV show, when he could have said, "the time is up, we don't have time, it would not be right to comment on it," goes on to expand on what he thinks is the nature of American leadership.

In the last minute, I just want to raise one more point. Is the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) seriously—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please.

Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has just made some very valid points in a very tough manner, but I suggest that many of the points he made were his own personal observations. He asked where was Canada during these times of crisis. Canada was where it normally is, helping the poor and underprivileged countries of this world which include Afghanistan. I might suggest to the hon. member that not far away from Afghanis-