

the great task to be accomplished in order to give new hope to the world and faith in a better future to mankind.

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we have listened to five most interesting and thought-provoking speeches. I am sure hon. members would benefit if they now had two hours in which to think about those speeches. Therefore I would ask Your Honour to call it six o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, in taking part in this debate a member can take it for granted that every sane Canadian—and of course I include all the members in the house in that description, even all those behind me—wants world peace. The problem is to chart the course that will enable Canada to make her greatest possible contribution to world peace. Discussions on external affairs are of great value in charting such a course, not only because the ministry and the private members gain knowledge from such discussions but also because they help to create public opinion across Canada, and there is great need in Canada of an informed public opinion on external affairs. I know that the newspapers of this country, both our weeklies and our dailies have been striving valiantly to bring to the attention of the public the importance of all these problems that arise beyond our boundaries, but there is still a great lack of interest in them in Canada and a great need for a more thorough understanding of external affairs.

I would advocate, Mr. Speaker, that we have debates on external affairs in this house at frequent intervals. They could be brought up on bills or on estimates or by way of motions to adjourn the house. In some way or another, by agreement between the parties, provision could be made for frequent debates on external affairs, and there is no finer way of helping the Canadian people to decide for what they stand. Then, too, the activities of the external affairs committee could be greatly increased. That committee has not yet sat this year although the session is now over a month old. It could hear representations from the various bodies in Canada interested in external affairs. There is a great work to be done by the standing committee on external affairs.

[Mr. Pinard.]

I have a further suggestion along the same line. I think factual reports of the united nations meetings to which we send delegates should be prepared which would be approved by all the parties and then be distributed widely across Canada. We are pretty much at one in our stand at the united nations meetings, and there is no reason why the leaders of the parties should not get together and approve a factual report which could be sent out to the people. I know from my own experience that it is difficult, when the house is not sitting to find out just what Canada stood for at a meeting of the united nations. It is difficult to gather from the press exactly what stand was taken and difficult to get the whole picture; so I suggest in great earnestness that some thought be given to sending out these non-partisan reports of united nations meetings. They could be distributed to all the labour unions in Canada, to agricultural associations, business organizations, churches, schoolteachers, service clubs and many other groups who would make good use of such information.

The subject of today's debate is set out in the reasons given by my good friend the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) in moving the adjournment of the house. It is as follows:

... the written submissions made by the government of Canada to the special deputies of the council of foreign ministers on the proposed peace treaties with Germany and Austria and the Canadian position taken with respect to a full participation of this country in the making of these treaties.

The hon. member for Peel went on to point out that this question is urgent because the council of foreign ministers is to meet in Moscow one week from today.

What is the council of foreign ministers? Members will recall that throughout the war there were meetings of the great war leaders; first of all, the Right Hon. Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt, and then, later, these two met with Premier Stalin. At the Crimean conference held at Yalta in February, 1945, those three war leaders decided that their foreign ministers should be used as permanent machinery for consultation. At Potsdam on August 2, 1945, they announced the setting up of the second council of foreign ministers. I hold in my hand a book which, I am sure, hon. members will find interesting. It is entitled "Britain; Partner for Peace". It is written by an American, Professor Percy Ellwood Corbett.

Mr. CLAXTON: A Canadian.