

*Supply—External Affairs*

interest to the statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am sure it is quite correct to say that he always has the good will and the best wishes of the house in all he tries to undertake in his extremely important office. We in Canada are rather fortunate in the members who have held this office. The previous secretary of state for external affairs was concerned in something that we all hope will develop into a reality in every sense of the word in the days to come and that was when he proposed the emergency force in the Middle East. We in this group hope that force grows into a world police force in the very near future instead of the regional and other pacts that exist at the present time.

The minister said that Canada's role was to do all it could to lessen world tensions. Indeed if I heard him correctly, he made some reference to a remark made by one of the Soviet delegates in a recent conference he attended and which indicated they recognize the fact that Canadians are peaceful people and that our policies are based on our desire for peace. I did not catch the exact words.

Before proceeding I also wish to express our appreciation of the excellent work done by the senior and other officials of the minister's staff. The more one meets representatives of other nations and has an opportunity to talk to them, the more he realizes that we are fortunate in having as our representatives sincere persons working under very ticklish conditions at the present time.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs usually visits his home constituency for a bit of a summer holiday. As a matter of fact his mother is a constituent of mine and he visited there as usual this summer. I always look in the newspapers the next day to read what he had to say. It is reported rather more fully in the *Nelson daily News* than it would be, say, in the *Globe and Mail* because he is welcomed as the home town boy who has made good. We recognize that fact.

I read with great interest the speech the minister made in Kaslo on August 13 as reported in the *Nelson daily News* of August 14. It was a very good speech on the whole, but I must make some reservations. The minister had this to say, in part:

"There is a great opportunity for our nation. Canada can make a great contribution to mankind as a whole. It all comes back to the individual. In the final analysis every nation can only be as strong as the people in that nation. Whether it be in the Kootenays, at Vancouver, or in the maritimes, the Canadian people, 18 million strong, have an opportunity to serve mankind. It rests with every individual Canadian."

What I like about those comments is that the minister recognizes the value of the in-

[Mr. Herridge.]

dividual and the importance of public opinion in the country. He also recognizes the importance of Canadians as individuals as well as governments accepting responsibility in these serious times.

The minister had something to say about nuclear tests. He mentioned that France was the first nation to disappoint the hopes of other nations in the world by insisting on some mole-eyed nuclear tests, as I understand it.

The Soviet union has undertaken nuclear tests in recent weeks. I can say that the members of this group were dismayed at this decision on the part of the Soviet union, particularly after the years of effort by numerous sincere people representing various countries at the many meetings which have been held. We trust this is only a passing phase and is sort of an ebullient exhibition and irritation that can be modified, and a policy that can be changed as the result of continued negotiations and discussions.

We were very pleased to hear the minister place his faith in continued negotiations regardless of the frustrations rather than in belligerent statements and policies. We were also disappointed—as I think were the hon. members of the official opposition—with the United States decision to commence underground tests in the meantime, as I think was stated in the newspapers, prior to the deadline set by President Kennedy with respect to a reply from Mr. Khrushchev. We think this was an unfortunate mistake and, like the hon. member for Essex East who has just resumed his seat, we should like to hear what the government is doing to indicate, I think it is safe to say, general Canadian disappointment and displeasure at the announcement of the United States to proceed with underground nuclear tests. We think the United States would have been in a much stronger position if they had refrained from this action at the present time.

We believe we have to be pretty cool and objective. That is one thing I like about the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as I did about the previous secretary of state for external affairs. We have been very fortunate in that respect. We have had level-headed, moderate-minded people who do not blow off steam in any critical situation. This is very necessary in the world today. We believe we must take a very cool and objective approach to these questions.

The minister mentioned the opinions of people and the responsibility of individuals. I like to find out what people are thinking. I had the opportunity to travel around the Kootenays during the recess. This was somewhat limited by my prior attendance at a