

United Nations Charter Reform

and can do much to gather support for this idea. We must avoid in future repeating what we all did or did not do in the Nigeria-Biafra incident. The international community did not want to become involved in the conflict because of the sacred cow of sovereignty to which the hon. member for Egmont referred. The international community thought, "This has nothing to do with us" even though it witnessed a world tragedy on an enormous scale. That showed the weakness of the UN and why we must reform it as quickly as possible. I submit that Canada as a well-respected nation can lead the way toward a more viable and powerful world community.

If we are to achieve this objective, as a first step I suggest we abandon the arms race and opt out of regional military pacts such as NATO and NORAD. We should pursue an independent foreign policy so that Canada may wield more influence among the nations of the world, particularly among the third world, with a view to establishing a responsible world community. Also, I submit we ought to recognize mainland China as soon as possible and make sure that country is seated on the Security Council of the United Nations. How can one begin talking about a world community when the country containing a quarter of the world's population remains outside the world organization? It is foolish to think about a world organization which does not have mainland China among its membership as well as every other country which is not in the United Nations.

• (5:40 p.m.)

This will take time. As long as we keep hesitating and procrastinating, nothing will be done. If we keep hedging, the United Nations will gradually become weaker and weaker until, like the League of Nations, it will become completely ineffective and will disappear. This will not happen quickly. If we look at history we will see that it took a long time for the nation state to evolve and develop into what we have today. If we go back, we will see that at the beginning there were tribal units. These gradually formed city states and kingdoms. It took a long time before the nation state evolved out of kingdoms. Today we must move into a new era with an international organization or some type of world federation.

I wish to once again state why we should refer this motion to the committee. Hopefully, the committee will carry out some constructive work on this resolution, and as much of it as possible should be included in legislation. I

wish the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, who put this motion on the Order Paper, had talked this way when a number of us were trying to get certain aspects of the Nigerian problem discussed at the United Nations. This was one problem we all faced. I was disappointed that some members, particularly the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, did not support our action in trying to get part of the Nigerian problem discussed at the United Nations. If my information is correct, the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce is chairman of the Liberal Party caucus on external affairs and defence. I wish him well in trying to sell these ideas to some of his colleagues. If my experience in this House has taught me anything, he will need a bit of luck.

Canada is respected all over the world. I think most people agree, including the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) who spent some time at the United Nations, that we are respected more than any other country, certainly more than the United States, the Soviet Union or any of the major powers. Because of this we can lead the way in many matters. This is only one of the fields in which we must lead the way in the near future. I think it is vital to the very existence, not only of Canada and our society but of the world community.

Mr. F. J. Bigg (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join other members of the House in congratulating the member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) for introducing this motion. It is to his credit that it is a private member's motion. I do not think it should be ignored on that account. It is a very important motion.

The United Nations was an experiment in world federalism. No matter what it is called, it is a re-birth of the League of Nations. Unfortunately, in 1945 we repeated the same error we made in the League of Nations. I say "we" because Canada was one of the originators of the idea of the United Nations. Having written nine-tenths of the charter in very acceptable form, we left out a very important power—the power to enforce peace.

Several members have pointed out that the human being is a very noble creature. He is willing to organize himself, sacrifice himself and he will listen to any amount of propaganda, some of which is acceptable depending from what source it is heard. He may herd millions of people to their death. It is very difficult to get a small percentage of people