

*U.S. Invasion of Cambodia*

that this House should not forget, that is, that had it not been for the U.S. assuming the titanic responsibilities that Britain had carried for 200 or 300 years without thanks, freedom today would not be in existence anywhere in the world. I am distressed to hear so outspoken a condemnation on the part of this country while across the line the U.S. pours out its blood and its treasury.

I am not in agreement with the hon. member concerning the circumstances under which the U.S. entered Viet Nam. Today that is simply a dialectical exercise. I feel convinced that the United States was invited there. He says it was not. Whichever is correct is of no consequence today. What would we have the U.S. do—get out?

**Mr. Nystrom:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** It's the young one speaking.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) has made it clear that in his opinion the United States should get out of Viet Nam. If it did, he and young men all over the western world would find themselves in a dangerous situation.

**Mr. Crouse:** In uniform.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Forty thousand Americans are dead so far. The United States has tried to get out by negotiation. I am surprised that the hon. member would say nothing in criticism of the degree to which North Viet Nam has refused to negotiate no matter what the United States has offered. The President of the United States offered to reduce the number of forces, and he has done so. Did that bring about any softening of the attitude on the part of North Viet Nam?

**Mr. Crouse:** None.

**Mr. Nystrom:** It's their country.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The President offered almost everything except the withdrawal which has the support of the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville. He says "withdraw". Well, you can ridicule the domino theory all you will, but Southeast Asia would fall to the Communists if the United States walked out without a political settlement. The only reason Indonesia stood when there was a Communist coup was the United States.

It is so easy for us to judge what should be done. We face one of those situations where the heart of mankind is shaken by what is

taking place. We are fearful. What of the future? What of tomorrow? We do not know the circumstances of which the President of the United States has full knowledge. He cannot reveal those things. Mention was made that there was no knowledge that there was going to be any entry into Cambodia by the U.S. That is not the way I read it. One person made that statement but others said the very reverse. The Americans are in a desperate position in Southeast Asia. I do not think they should have gone in originally when President Kennedy, making one of his various monumental mistakes, moved in there with troops. However, they are there. And my hon. friends as the CCF in 1939 were not right.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** They spoke with the same sophistication, the same assurance that from above, they alone had the answer to all the questions. I do not see them turning to that volume of *Hansard* of 1939 when freedom was in danger and they said that Canada should stand aloof except for economic assistance. When we face problems such as this it is so easy to place the U.S. in the position of being the accused in the dock. As the minister said, I do not want to see this House placing Canada in the role of the accuser. It is a dangerous thing for Parliament to be meeting for the purpose of telling the U.S., "It is your sacrifice. You have poured out the billions to maintain freedom, and a few members of our Parliament sit here on a Friday afternoon and determine whether your course is right and we condemn you". I will have no part in such a proposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Winston Churchill in his famous speech in Fulton on March 5, 1946, said:

• (4:10 p.m.)

The United States stands at this time at the pinnacle of world power. It is a solemn moment for the American democracy. For with primacy in power is also joined an awe-inspiring accountability to the future.

The United States was new to power, steeped in liberty and a stranger to tyranny. It took over world leadership from Britain which had carried that load for 200 years. Senator Fulbright was a word for every occasion; he has an answer to everything. Since he has been chairman of that committee there has not been a President, whether a Democrat or a Republican, who has been right. They