

Supply—External Affairs

this mechanistic age we could fly employees of Canadian factories, who could go off for three weeks in a year, perhaps, and spend some time in the Windward isles or in the Leeward isles or down in some of those obscure and beautiful and not too expensive places?

I know several universities in Canada which have been enriched by the addition of Caribbean students. Some of our greatest athletes who have competed in the Olympics have come from the Caribbean. Harry Belafonte, for whom I have much admiration, says in the *United Church Observer* for November of this year:

The struggle of the Negro people in America today is part of a very much larger struggle. The dignity and integrity of the whole human race, especially of the colored peoples all over the earth, are involved. Nothing is more gratifying than to come to a place like Canada which has had historical association with the struggle of the Negro people in America. From early days of the abolition of slavery, over many years, you have shown support for the struggle of the Negro people of America.

This is not an embittered man, but one who has known great success. He continues:

It is true that you are removed from the vicious faces of the white supremacist forces that exist in America; it is true that your children are not being whipped in the streets with hoses. It is true that your children are not being put into the segregated and vicious prisons of the south to be beaten; it is true that lynchings are not directly a part of the Canadian scene. But I dare to say that human right and human responsibility is as much yours as it is ours.

There are many subjects one could touch on in the field of external affairs, but there is still a little time available and many people wish to contribute to the debate. It is a fact, as one of my distinguished predecessors tonight has said, that at the moment there is an appalling imbalance between what the world is contributing to defence and what it is contributing to foreign aid and social and economic improvements of underdeveloped people. I am not suggesting that our contribution to defence is too high. Indeed, I earnestly wonder whether we are pulling our full weight in that direction. But certainly in the direction of foreign aid there is no question but that we have been very much on the low side and we must make substantial and important changes for the future.

I should like to conclude with the final paragraph of the last speech President Kennedy prepared only a few days ago. He said:

We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility—that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint—and that we may achieve for our time and for all time the ancient vision of peace on earth, goodwill towards men. That must always be our goal—and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength.

[Mr. Matheson.]

That is not a matter on which there is any division in this house. In every political party there are people who have made noteworthy contributions in the discussions of external affairs; some, indeed, have spoken today. I know that my political leader is a man who believes mightily in this cause, and now is the time to get down to specifics and prove this in a noble and grand way.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Chairman, it is rather a pity that the original plan of having the defence estimates discussed tomorrow is not to be carried out, because the estimates of the Department of External Affairs and the estimates of the Department of National Defence are, by their very nature, intimately related. After all, defence policy is really dependent on foreign policy, and for this reason changes in one affect the other. Recently we have noticed certain changes of policy in the Department of National Defence, such as the scrapping of the frigate program. There has been a great deal of talk in the press and other authoritative sources that further extensive cuts in defence equipment are being contemplated. This can only indicate one thing, and that is that our foreign policy, presumably in the field of NATO, is going to be altered as well. However, more of that in a moment.

As the Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out very well, apart from the general objectives of peace and good relations with other countries of the world, and of course protecting our national sovereignty, our foreign policy is based on four cornerstones—our relationship with NATO, with the United Nations, with the commonwealth, and our special relationship with the United States of America.

First, with respect to NATO. Year by year we have heard that a crisis exists in NATO. This year is no exception. Year by year the need of Canada for the North Atlantic treaty alliance has proven to be inescapable. NATO is Canada's principal alliance. Indeed, it is the principal alliance of all its members, including the United States, and for 15 years NATO has proven to be the shield of the west.

What is the nature of the present crisis? The London *Economist* for November 9 last said that basically the present crisis of confidence inside the alliance stems from a whispering campaign in France and in Germany against the willingness of the United States to shoulder a burden in the alliance commensurate with its power. The same magazine goes on to say that it is nonsense to imagine that the United States, because of its own difficulties or because of dissatisfaction with its allies, is going to pull out.

No United States speech in recent times was awaited with greater interest and read