

U.S. Invasion of Cambodia

I also agree with the obvious validity of a statement in the *New York Times* editorial of last Monday where the following statement was made:

Military victory in Indo-China has always been a mirage, receding as rapidly as it is pursued. Lyndon Johnson learned that to his sorrow, and it inconceivable that President Nixon would set off at this late date on a similar chase.

It may have been inconceivable to the editorial writer of the *New York Times* but it is now a fact that that is precisely the course on which the American administration has embarked in Southeast Asia. May I remind the House that when this editorial was written the *New York Times* was dealing merely with the suggestion that America ship arms to Cambodia. Now, we are faced with an actual invasion of that country. Yet, the President of the U.S. has gone to dangerous extremes through the action of his forces. He has entered on a massive escalation of the war, the end of which cannot be foreseen. He threatens the peace of the world by that action, and it is important that this parliament and this government say so in no uncertain terms.

● (3:10 p.m.)

The fact is that in the present situation the same thing has happened as in the past, except that it happened in a matter of days rather than months. Hon. members will recall that there were originally a few hundred United States military advisers in South Viet Nam. Their numbers were later increased by President Kennedy to 15,000. Then a small army was sent to do the actual fighting. In the debate in 1966, to which I referred, it was reported that, in 1966, there were about 200,000 American soldiers, airmen and marines there. Now, we are speaking of between 400,000 and 500,000 troops despite recent withdrawals. In the present case we heard on April 28, a few days ago, reports that the United States had supplied communications equipment to the South Vietnamese for their entry into Cambodia. We heard on April 30 the reports of advisers and the engagement of United States aircraft; and on May 1 we heard of United States ground troops being in Cambodia.

This action, Mr. Speaker, has produced an outcry of dismay and opposition in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Those in this chamber who accuse members of the New Democratic Party of all sorts of things because of our outcry, dismay and opposition at this action had better remember

that almost unanimously the foreign relations committee of the United States Senate has condemned the action of the president and that there are millions of people in the United States of America who are dismayed and opposed to what the president announced last night.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Lewis: I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it will be of great assistance to those millions of Americans and to people of the world opposed to this immoral war if we as a neighbour and friend of the powerful nation to the south of us have the wisdom and courage to join with those voices that are opposed to this policy. United States Senator Frank Church is reported to have said, "This is just a first step of a new set of obligations. It can only lead to a deeper mess and to the borders of China." It is this kind of wisdom that we ought to express through the mouths of our minister and Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). This is not merely an action confined to Cambodia; it threatens the peace of the world, because the war is being escalated.

Let us be clear about one point. In the case of the American intrusion into South Viet Nam, the administration peddled the myth, and it was a myth, that the United States was invited by the government of South Viet Nam. That was the government which the United States administration had set up in South Viet Nam and it was therefore a self-induced invitation. But the government of Cambodia, a government which it is suspected United States authorities were instrumental in setting up, had not the slightest knowledge of American intentions or American action. According to reports I have received, General Lon Nol, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, had no advance warning of the action; that he had just heard of the operation through the press; and that he knew nothing of the American strike until informed by the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, Lloyd M. Rives, after President Nixon's speech. Please note, Mr. Speaker, that here is a country which has been invaded by the most powerful nation in the world; and not only did it not ask for the American action, but it was not informed about it until President Nixon announced it last night over the radio and television to the American people and the people of the world.

There is no excuse for what the Americans have done now. There is no possible suggestion that they were invited by Cambodia. I say without any qualification that the Ameri-