

Business of the House

strengthening it but the only suggestion he made in his speech the other evening was that ministers should go to NATO to represent their countries rather than having permanent representatives. That was the only suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition and I am afraid it is not a very practical suggestion. He also said that perhaps NATO could bring about a common Atlantic foreign policy. That, I am afraid, is also a highly impractical suggestion.

Finally, a word or two about disarmament. The hon. member for Essex East asked us whether the disarmament negotiations were to be subject to many political questions being first decided. That is not the case at all. These disarmament negotiations are supposed to go right ahead regardless of what progress is made on the political issues.

Mr. Pearson: Read the speech made by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Green: I believe the Prime Minister said that in his speech the other evening. Canada's course has been clear. We accepted responsibility under the 10-member disarmament committee. We at once put our officials to work making studies. We took a firm stand at the United Nations on disarmament. We encouraged all the small nations and the other middle nations to bring forward their disarmament suggestions. We arranged for the appointment of General Burns and now he is busy in Washington. The members of the five western powers on the disarmament committee are directing working groups on the different problems which will arise at the disarmament conference. Just about four weeks from now they will meet the five eastern powers in Geneva and it is hoped there will be a western plan worked out before that time.

The statements made by Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Khrushchev at the United Nations were very general proposals, Mr. Lloyd making them for the western countries and Mr. Khrushchev for the east. No other member of the 10-nation disarmament committee has gone that far in outlining principles. We will do our best to keep the house informed just as closely as possible on what progress is made.

I know there are great obstacles in the way of the disarmament committee but I also know of the eagerness of the people of the world to see some agreement reached on disarmament. They seem to realize much more clearly than some of the leading figures in the world today that there is a hydrogen bomb and that today we live in a hydrogen bomb age. I am certain that the people of Canada are deeply interested in this question of disarmament.

If there is a will to reach agreement it will be reached. If there is not on both sides a will to reach agreement on disarmament there will be no agreement reached and we will go from bad to worse, I am afraid. Of all the nations of that 10-member committee Canada must have faith. Canada must believe that progress can be made. That is why I feel it is very unwise to have all these doubts being cast up all the time. There will be plenty of people who are interested in armament as distinguished from disarmament and they will see to it that all the doubts that can be cast are cast. I suggest this course of action for those of us in responsible positions who represent the people of Canada. Let us have faith that an agreement on disarmament can be reached. If General Burns goes into this meeting with the conviction that the members of the House of Commons of all parties are solidly behind him in giving leadership which will result in a disarmament agreement, then Canada will be able to make the greatest contribution she has ever made in world affairs.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The minister said at the opening of his statement that in respect of the world bank there was not a peep out of me or from hon. members on this side of the house. I would remind the hon. gentleman that if he reads *Hansard* for the very first day of this session when questions could be asked—*Hansard* for January 18, 1960, page 39—he will find a question addressed to the government by an hon. member on this side of the house on that very point.

Mr. Green: Well, Mr. Speaker, there may have been a question but there was not much of a peep.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, may I ask what the business of the house is for tomorrow and Friday?

Mr. Pearkes: Tomorrow we shall start with No. 9 on today's order paper, namely the resolution in the name of the Minister of Justice to amend the Department of Justice Act. Then we shall go to No. 10, the resolution in the name of the Minister of Public Works to amend the National Housing Act. Then we shall take No. 12, the resolution in the name of the Minister of Transport to amend the Railway Act. If we get through these items we shall deal with supplementary estimates.

It being three minutes after ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.