

*The Address—Mrs. Casselman*

was secretary of state for external affairs Canada was liked and respected, and she is still equally liked and respected. Indeed to me it is very sad that Canada's outstanding, admirable position should be tossed about in this chamber for political reasons.

I regret that the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam is not in his seat at the moment. He is fond of reiterating the right to his own opinion. I am his junior in this chamber. I hope that fact is so self-evident as not to need too much reiteration, but it has always seemed to me rather strange that opinions which are unique to an individual should by that fact alone be considered any the more true. It is our system to respect minority opinions but I feel I need not apologize for belonging to the majority view, and certainly this is the majority opinion. I heard no other opinions expressed at the United Nations, and Canada's position and prestige are very high indeed. In all fairness to the hon. member he did say that he was at the United Nations for a short period. Possibly to some extent that may explain the differences in our opinions.

At any rate, as I served daily on the third committee and talked to each and every member of the committee, and to many of their friends on other committees, I heard none of the disparaging reports which he seemed to have heard. Many of the African delegates are young, with youthful enthusiasm and frankness. Many of them expressed their preference for our system of government, for the freedom of the western way of life; but they also expressed the need of our proving ourselves, of our proving our good faith, and they commended Canada for her obvious good will and for our very real efforts at understanding. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) epitomized for them this honourable and honest dedication to the good of all that they were seeking, and there was a predilection to trust all Canadians because of the calibre of our foreign minister. His efforts for disarmament, combined with his broad humanity and irreproachable character, may have a deeper significance than that expressed by those who feel as we do.

It seems to me that there is a growing desire in the Soviet union itself to find common grounds with us. Far be it from me to pose as a world traveller, much less an expert or commentator on world opinion, but I should like to say that I found the same friendship and good will in the parts of the world that I visited as was reported by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Churchill) in the parts of the world he has visited.

Last summer I motored many thousands of miles through parts of Russia. I visited Minsk, Smolensk, Moscow, Novgorod and Leningrad.

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We met many Russians who expressed their liking for Canadians as individuals and expressed an interest and awareness in our common problems of climate, geography, great distances, etc. They also expressed the faith that Canadian individuals were like individuals in all countries of the world. Like us, they wanted peace and they expressed the hope that our governments can achieve this.

This seemed to me a vast improvement over their previous declarations of the complete infallibility of their own government, and this is very encouraging. One other very encouraging fact is evident; they want peace and we are looking for the same strength to work toward this aim from other countries of the world.

We cannot undiscover dangerous or troublesome knowledge. We have added to our store of knowledge two very burdensome factors, nuclear discoveries and the awareness of the world's hunger. Whether we like it or not, we have a great deal of development to do, both morally and politically, to deal with these facts. It has been said that to the extent that our foreign policy is humane and reasonable it will be successful, and to the extent that it is imperialistic and aggressive it will fail. I feel most strongly that our foreign policy is humane and is reasonable.

I am proud of the prestige of our country. I am proud of our contribution to the United Nations, which works sometimes dramatically, sometimes undramatically, but always steadily under the unavoidable weight and pressure of 104 nations discussing, debating and persuading.

That this does not take hard work and infinite patience can only be said by those who have no actual knowledge of the mechanics of such an undertaking. It is to be hoped that there will come the day when the members of the United Nations think as members of this parliament, when individuals will not consider raising an army to wipe out those who hold different views, where the primitive urge to solve one's own difficulties and inadequacies will not take the form of striking out arrogantly against others, but in a reasonable admission of need and a faith in the good will of others.

In recent weeks the prime minister of the United Kingdom has spoken in support of statements made by his very respected foreign minister, Lord Home, and again they have displayed the well known British ability for facing facts. It would do no one any good to ignore the difficulties of the United Nations. Certainly there is the danger that unclear resolutions will make it difficult for the secretariat to carry them out. Certainly it is complex, and some governments abstain