

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/5

SURVEY OF WORLD AFFAIRS --
MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made in the House of Commons, January 29, 1954.

(See also Statements and Speeches No. 54/6)

This motion is for the purpose of making it possible to have in the House a discussion on external affairs. This is the first opportunity the House has had for such a discussion at this session, and I am sure I will be expressing the views of hon. members if I began by saying that on this occasion we will miss especially the presence of the late member for Peel (Mr. Graydon), whose constructive criticism and knowledge of international affairs has always added so much to our discussions of this subject in the past. We shall miss his contribution to the debate, as we still miss his friendly and happy personality in this House. Mr. Graydon had opponents in the House, but no enemies; and we shall long lament his loss.

Also I have a sad duty--and I hope it will not be inappropriate for me to refer to it at this time--to mention that our country has recently suffered another grievous loss, and I another close friend, in the passing of the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Hume Wrong. Of proud lineage and brilliant mind, with wise and honest judgment, Mr. Wrong had, beneath a shy, almost austere exterior, a warm and generous spirit. I think I have been possibly in as good a position as anyone in the House to appreciate the quality and worth of his service to Canada over the years.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention with great regret that the foreign and indeed the public service of Canada suffered a third loss recently in the death of Mr. George Patterson, a member of our delegation to the recent United Nations Assembly, and our consul general in Boston. Mr. Patterson was a quiet, sincere and dedicated man, whose whole life was devoted to the service of his fellow men. For many years in the Far East as an officer of the Y.M.C.A., and later in China as our representative there. Like that of Mr. Wrong and Mr. Graydon, Mr. Patterson's life was shortened by his refusal to recognize any limitations on the energy and hours he gave to his work.

We in Canada often, and quite rightly, refer with pride to the great natural resources of our country. But greater even is Canada in its human resources, when it has men like these three to serve it.

A pleasant task is now to extend, if I may, my good wishes to the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), as he takes over responsibility as critic for the official opposition in matters of external affairs.