

*Interim Supply*

and discuss ways and means of carrying on negotiations on disarmament. Canada for several years at the United Nations—and I have some knowledge of it; I have been vice-chairman of the delegation there for several years—has taken a lead on each and every occasion to try to get the major powers together again and to see if some arrangement can be made to work out some disarmament agreement. When the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam rises in his place in this House of Commons and makes these insinuations about the Secretary of State for External Affairs I think they must be answered. I might add that if he has acquired his information on this subject during the times that he has attended at the United Nations, I find that very amazing indeed, in view of the length of time he was there and his status when he was there.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. McCleave):** Shall the resolution carry?

**Mr. Howard:** If I may, I should like to make a comment, although just a brief one, on what the hon. member for Oxford has just said. Unlike the hon. member for Oxford I do not have in my background the benefit of long distance telescopes in order to be able to ascertain some of the more detailed things. I would point out to him and to other hon. members that the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, contrary to the distortion made by the hon. member for Oxford, made no insinuations against the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam was talking about this government, not the Secretary of State for External Affairs, when he made those remarks.

In the field of disarmament this government, the hon. member for Oxford or the Secretary of State for External Affairs, bearing in mind the total concept of the need for disarmament, have done nothing of which to be proud. This government has reason to be proud of one of its members, a fellow British Columbian, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, because of what he has attempted to do in promoting discussions on disarmament and attempting to promote disarmament. They have reason to have admiration for the hon. gentleman who holds that ministerial post because of his efforts in this field. But this government and hon. members of this house should know full well that the government of Canada is defeating the attempts of the Secretary of State for External Affairs in the field of disarmament.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**An hon. Member:** Poppycock.

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

**Mr. Howard:** My hon. friend says "Poppycock". Let me carry on and explain.

**Mr. Graffey:** You need to explain.

**Mr. Howard:** I will explain when I feel like explaining, not when the hon. member insists upon it. I think every hon. member of this committee knows full well—and this has been expressed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs—that so long as the people's republic of China stays outside of these negotiations there is not going to be any disarmament, unilaterally or any other way.

This is a government which has consistently refused to give this question the recognition it deserves. This is a government which has continued to ride along on the coat tails of the United States when it comes to the question of recognizing the people's republic of China, or red China, or the government of the mainland of China, or however you wish to classify it. We can talk until doomsday about disarmament and neither the Soviet union nor the United States, each one doing it individually, in a unilateral way, or by agreement, is going to reach any agreement or move toward disarmament so long as China is a nation outside of those discussions. China is a nation that has one quarter of the world's population within its boundaries. It is a country which is a growing military power. It is a country which has received, so we are told, a limited amount of guidance and assistance from the Soviet union in certain technological matters. It is a country, so we are told by people who are reputed to know about these matters, which within a decade or less will be nuclear power. If the government believes that the Soviet union and/or the United States, separately or by agreement, are going to engage in disarmament while there is a nation whose borders embrace one quarter of the world's population, which is a growing military power and is going to become a nuclear power, then this is a government which is not moving toward the field of disarmament with the full force with which it should be moving.

If this government believed implicitly and clearly in the questions of peace and disarmament it would back the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the fullest extent and would recognize the fact that there is a growing military and economic power in China, and that this power should be in the disarmament discussions. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has himself said that China must be a part of those discussions. Yet he belongs to a government which refuses to take any concrete, definite, firm steps toward recognition of that country.