

*Supply*

much money being spent on useless production of death machines, but we are also contributing to the moral problem. Large expenditures of money are going to arms production instead of to the production of human services. Countries with long records of human rights abuse are very often the major purchasers of the arms that we are either manufacturing or engaged in manufacturing. This means that we become immoral ourselves. As we participate in this obnoxious international arms trade, we ourselves become immoral.

I think Canadians generally view Canada as a country with a good record of human rights, supporting other countries of human rights, standing up in our place and condemning those countries that do not have such human rights records. I think Canadians are surprised when they discover the extent to which Canada is involved in the production of arms, the shipment of arms and the export of arms. I think Canadians do not view our country as a major arms producer and exporter. That is why it is important to us, as the New Democratic Party, to have this topic as an Opposition day motion to make Canadians aware of what the Government has been doing and the extent to which Canada has become involved in the arms race as a supplier of armaments.

Hopefully through this awareness Canadians will protest, as many will be protesting next week at Lansdowne Park, in silent vigils and marches against the Government's policy.

While we live in a world of tremendous dangers brought about, of course, by the introduction of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weaponry as well as biochemical and the biological weapons of mass destruction there are hopeful signs. I had an opportunity, along with with some of my colleagues, earlier this year to visit and talk with some of the Canadians involved in the Vienna discussions. They were optimistic and reported to us that for the first time in their memory and experience as arms negotiators they were beginning to find a receptivity to new ideas. The other day West Germany's Minister of Defence proclaimed that the cold war was over. We have heard other Governments, western Governments as well as some of the eastern Governments, proclaim or suggest that there is an atmosphere in the world in part brought about by economic necessity, that we have to step away from the escalation of the arms race and begin the process of

de-escalation. There is in this a tremendous hope for humankind.

The possibility exists today that we can walk away from the brink of total human destruction and walk toward some form of sanity. It is not just a backing away from a tremendous evil of global destruction, but going forward with something promising. If we can begin to harness that trillion dollars in world expenditure on arms every year and put it toward the building of hospitals, to the provision of basic human needs and services on a global scale, we can then dare to begin to think and dream of a much more beautiful world. We could then dream of a world where those basic human needs will become the priority and we would have the ability and the capacity to meet those human needs so that the ancient scourges of hunger, disease, poverty and ignorance can be dealt with and wiped off the face of this earth. That is the tremendous potential that we have as a human race and that exists today.

We, in the New Democratic Party, call upon this Government to realize the potential we have. We call upon this Government to reverse the strategy it has been following since 1984, one of accelerating the cold war and of playing into it. We call upon this Government to realize that the world has changed and in fact, the world is trying to step away from escalation. We call upon this Government to take up the historic role which Canada has played, and continue taking a leadership role toward mutual understanding.

Even Conservative Governments like John Diefenbaker's Government or previous Liberal Governments were the same in this one aspect. They were able to follow a more independent Canadian foreign policy. Mr. Diefenbaker did not go along with the Americans in the blockading of Havana. The Liberals under Pierre Trudeau and Lester Pearson and Louis St. Laurent also took independent foreign policy decisions. But this Government has been tripping over itself in its desire to please the Americans. In fact, it has become more American than the Americans themselves and, as such, the Government is doing a disservice to the Americans.

We are close friends of the Americans and as close friends we should be honest with the Americans. If you are not honest with your close friends, you are no longer close friends. The Americans require some friends to be honest with them. It is about time this Government became honest with the Americans and told them that there is room for disarmament, that there is room for