

Supply—External Affairs

and rather parochial questions which my hon. friend has put. I think these matters are too important to be used for the purpose of satisfying one's political hobby no matter how inefficient and amateurish one may be in the discharge of that hobby.

Mr. Churchill: I am thinking of the good name of Canada and her prestige abroad.

An hon. Member: Since when?

Mr. Churchill: Always; and I have shown it by my actions, too.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Chairman, we were all very interested to hear the statement by the minister. He made certain remarks of particular note, however, which I think may require a little further clarification. First of all, I think we all share the minister's very justifiable apprehension concerning the future of the United Nations itself in the light of the non-payment to date by the Soviet union and her satellites and France of lawful United Nations dues.

This brings to mind a very interesting conversation I had with the late secretary general about a week before he was killed. On that occasion he said to me "You know, the league of nations was a success". When he noticed some surprise on my face he went on to say "After all, it was a success because it was the first organization of its kind in the world. It failed for reasons we all know, and the United Nations as we know it will probably fail in due course. Then a third organization will be set up, and then a fourth." He said "After all, one has to look at these matters over the long range".

If what the minister fears takes place the present form of the United Nations may terminate, but certainly a third form would arise out of the ashes like the phoenix. I think this is something we can expect to take place, because after all organizations of the type of the United Nations, even in the form as it exists at present, have become a necessity of the world and I think most countries realize this.

I was very interested to hear the minister's observations about nuclear weapons, and my reaction was much the same as that of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. If I heard the minister correctly, and I am sure he will advise me if I did not, he said that Canada first committed herself to the acquisition of nuclear weapons in 1948. This is certainly an interesting revelation, because from what we have heard from members on that side of the house we were led to believe that

this commitment was not made until more recent years. This is certainly most interesting information.

Regardless of what the minister may say at the present time about Canada not really being a member of the nuclear club, it is not always what is true but what appears to be true that matters. Certainly many of our colleagues in the United Nations and elsewhere have said to me very bluntly: It is all right for you people to talk and support the Irish resolution, the Swedish resolution and others, but after all you really are a member of the nuclear club. We know there is some technical business about who presses the button at the last moment, but you really are a member. Whether we like it or not, this is the general feeling abroad.

Another of the minister's observations concerned the great interest that Canada has in the foreign policy of France. I agree that this is certainly a matter of the greatest interest to Canada, particularly inasmuch as of recent date there has been at least the appearance in this country of a rather undue interest on the part of France in our domestic affairs. I remember that on one occasion I brought this to the attention of the Prime Minister who promised to look into the matter, but so far we have not had any reply from him.

I would refer to the event a few weeks ago in the city of Three Rivers when, as I recall, the rapporteur of the foreign affairs committee of the French national assembly advised members of the St. Jean Baptiste society that independence for Quebec and separation from the rest of Canada would be a very good thing. We had another incident at the time Air Canada was contemplating the purchase of aircraft. Apparently several types were being considered and certain suggestions were made in the press that the ambassador of France was taking a rather active part in the matter by encouraging some students in Montreal to try to put pressure on the government to purchase the Caravelle aircraft. Again, we have also seen the story, reported in the French press, about the possibility of setting up a high powered radio station on the island of Miquelon in order to promote French cultural activities in Canada.

These reports may or may not be entirely accurate, but certainly they give the appearance of a very close interest by the present government of France in the internal affairs of this country. If these matters have not already been carefully looked into I should hope they would be, because interference of this kind is not necessarily entirely welcome.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]