

Crisis in Cuba

which is being given by the two great opposing forces in this world conflict. As Canadians we have an opportunity to give hope and leadership to many of the smaller nations that are not able to stand as we do today. Let us make sure we fulfill our obligation in that regard.

Let us also remember that in this chess game of international politics, where one nation is lined up against another on either side of the wall that divides us into two camps, we are not dealing just with nations that are represented by governments. We are dealing with governments that in themselves are representative of millions and millions of people, people like you and I, people who need to live and who want to live, people who look for peace as we do, and among them are the people on the other side of the fence. As we try to solve our problems and speak about these things, let us remember we are doing so on behalf of millions of people whose lives mean as much to them as do ours to us.

I was reminded of a statement the other day, which perhaps it is fitting to use here, and which says "It is better to be fed than red." In this context we have a chance to give leadership in our own hemisphere, a chance to reach out at this time to those nations that are not so fortunate as we are, and through our tremendous potential for good will and material wealth, provide those things which are necessary for people to live. Also it is to see what more we can do for our neighbours to draw them into that neighbourhood of nations which can do so much in the western hemisphere. Let us move on to assist many of the countries in Latin America which need assistance and which are looking for leadership.

In this crisis every red blooded Canadian understands that the issues are grave. Actually we are at war. We have not wanted to admit that down through the years, but the cold war we have been fighting during the last 12 years—indeed, since the end of world war I if we care to go back that far—is just as much a war and is just as grave as any war in which we have been involved. It is a war not necessarily fought with armed military might, but the forces used are just as decisive in the end.

Therefore in our struggle and our quest for peace we come back again to the issue which has been exemplified in the statement given us today by the Prime Minister. We must stand with our friends for what is right, and we must do everything possible to develop and further cultivate the peace which this world must have if it is to survive at all.

[Mr. Thompson.]

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, since my statement on Monday evening last, which I made on behalf of this party, in which I briefly outlined our general approach to the Cuban crisis and emphasized our hopes, the members of this party have had an opportunity to obtain the facts, to obtain information, and to assess that information and those facts. Let me emphasize that members of this group come to their decisions with the knowledge of their responsibility to the Canadian people and their responsibility to the many millions of people referred to by the leader of the party opposite.

We had hoped to present our views to the house before now, particularly yesterday which we thought would have been a most appropriate opportunity, being United Nations day, to give a detailed exposition of our views with respect to this most unfortunate crisis. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we welcome this opportunity to make a statement on the Cuban crisis in line with our long time over-all policy on external affairs.

Members of the house know the policy of this group with respect to disarmament, with respect to nuclear weapons, with respect to nuclear testing, and they know the confidence and faith which this group has expressed in the United Nations as the body to which all these problems should be directed.

I wish to emphasize that we seek no partisan advantage from this unfortunate crisis, but present our views and our proposals in the firm conviction that they are in the best interests of the Canadian people and will make a contribution toward the promotion of world peace.

Some people still cling to the fetish that Canadians must never rock the boat of United States foreign policy. With that point of view the members of this party differ sharply, and we consider it our duty and responsibility to suggest another course when we believe that the present one is likely to land us on the rocks of international suicide.

In our opinion, Mr. Speaker, the present course being pursued by the United States may result in a propaganda victory for Mr. Khrushchev and mark him as a peacemaker in the eyes of many nations in the world. I might direct your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that even today's editorial in the *Globe and Mail* suggests this. If I may quote briefly from that editorial it says:

He can pose as the peacemaker turning the other cheek to United States aggression.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that we agree with the remarks of the leader of the official opposition with respect to the tragic situation that occurred in Hungary. But also