

Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Act

miles to peace, perhaps, and this is a step on the road to peace, albeit a small one.

The Hon. Member for Calgary Centre suggested that this would be the first step toward neutrality. We never advocated neutrality for Canada, Mr. Speaker. This is not a declaration of neutrality. He sounded like Ronald Reagan when he said that we do not have a choice, that we must choose sides and that we have chosen to stick with democracy. It is the East-West bogeyman, Mr. Speaker—it is the Reds and us. It is Ronald Reagan's problem that he sees the world in black and white and in no other colours, nothing in between.

I get scared by things like the speech the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Member for Central Nova, (Mr. Mulroney), gave in Calgary and the other speeches he has made to the effect that we have to follow the Americans whatever they do—that we have to follow Reagan, saying “ready, aye, ready”. It is not the British this time, as it was 50 years ago for the Conservatives, but it is now the American President whom we should follow. The Conservative policy is really “the U.S. right or wrong”.

It scares me to hear the defence critic for the Conservatives saying the same thing and telling us to look at the polls and see that that Party may be in government. Imagine what kind of policies it would bring in! We would be giving up our independence, our foreign policy, our foreign independence and we would have a warmongering Canadian Government saying, “ready, aye, ready” to President Reagan. That is frightening, Mr. Speaker. We would be into Central America as President Reagan will be if he is re-elected as president. I would not be surprised if he were to send troops there.

Mr. Andre: When did I say all that?

Mr. Waddell: They would follow the United States to the end. That is the implication of these policies.

Perhaps I should return to the immediate matter of the Bill, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member suggested that we are anti-NATO. It was not NATO that asked Canada to test the Cruise missile. I think it was the United States.

Let us not get into this kind of East-West, black and white, them-us arguments. Let us look at the Bill, which asks for a nuclear free zone. If the Hon. Member is concerned about some small points, let him bring them up in committee. He has said that this is an empty gesture, that it is an East-West struggle, that it is democracy versus dictatorship. That is an old trick, Mr. Speaker. You set up a straw man and then knock him down. In effect, they say that we are for democracy and therefore we must be against this Bill which somehow is for the other side. It is easy to do that in debate, but it is a mistake. As a people facing the dangers of nuclear war, we cannot continue with this line of thinking.

I think people feel that we are on the way to some kind of final Armageddon in this world, in which we will lose everything we have built up over the centuries and that there will be no future for any children. I would not like to think that my

colleagues in the Conservative Party or in the Liberal Party are pursuing the road to war rather than the road to peace.

[Translation]

A good way of taking a first step on the road to peace would be to refer this bill to the appropriate committee of the House of Commons.

[English]

Accordingly, I should like to move that the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word “that” and substituting the following:

Bill C-203, an Act to declare Canada a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, be not now read the second time but that the order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: While waiting for the text, could I inquire from the Hon. Member who the seconder of the motion is?

Mr. Waddell: It is seconded by the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake (Mr. Anguish).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake cannot be a proper seconder for the motion since he is the mover of the main motion. Is there a seconder? I can only receive the motion if it is properly seconded.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I would ask that one of the government Members of Conservative Members, if they are really concerned about taking peaceful steps and debating in this committee, offer to act as the formal seconder of the Bill.

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think it is reprehensible that the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway should refer to us in this way when there are only two members of the New Democratic Party in the House. If they were interested in having this referred, they would have had a few more Members present.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I understand the Conservative position is that it is not prepared to put up a seconder to send this peaceful step to a committee. I wonder if the Liberal Government is prepared to follow the road to peace and put up a seconder for the motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair finds itself in the position of not being able to put the motion before the House since it is not properly seconded at this time. I must therefore reject the motion.

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, I think it is an indication of the interest that the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway has been able to cultivate in his caucus, that there were not enough members of his Party present to support his motion. When there is a caucus of 30 or 31 Members and only two are present for the debate, which has apparently consumed—

Mr. Waddell: How many do you have?