

*Supply—National Defence*

Soviet Union, or by France for that matter. But we have other means France has not got, that England has not got and that the U.S.A. possibly has not got. We can produce in this country goods for any nation in the world.

Today we are trying to fight communist ideas with nuclear arms. We are taking nuclear positions and adopting every kind of defence we can imagine to prevent the Soviet Union from invading democratic countries. Let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, and through you the minister, that you will not defeat communism with arms, with bombs or with any kind of nuclear warfare. You will not and you know it, sir.

Today Latin America is in a very shaky situation. Give it another ten years and the fighting will not be in Viet Nam; it will be in Latin America. Thousands of people are dying from starvation there every day, but what do we do about it? We buy Voodoos and we buy Bomarcs. If the Canadian government and the Canadian people would help these underdeveloped nations, there would be much less chance of communist infiltration in these countries and we would not have to be so afraid and be on the defence so much. Possibly if we had helped Viet Nam when there was yet time to help it we would not be facing the situation we are facing today. We can help other countries by first giving their people something to eat. By that means we will help their morale.

The two great ideas that prevail in the world today are the democratic way of life and what we call the eastern block or communist way of life. It is up to us to prove that the democratic way is better but not by means of warfare or nuclear arms. We should not try to defend it after it is too late, but rather by proving beforehand that we can do something with it. One of the things we can do is not to let other nations starve.

We sit at home in the midst of our own wealth and say that everything is all right, but we forget that our neighbours do not enjoy the same kind of comforts that we do. Now is the time to help them. There is an old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, which applies in this situation as much as anywhere else.

It is O.K. for Canada to have a defence role. We need national defence. We need forces with conventional arms, the best that can be got because we do not have the means to acquire other kinds. With these we can face local situations and on occasion help

outside our own boundaries, but we should not try to compete in the world race for nuclear arms.

In 1962 and 1963 members of the government made certain statements concerning nuclear arms, but if you compare those statements with their stand today you will see that what they said more than three years ago was not quite the truth. At that time it was done to win an election. Today it is done to satisfy Washington. That is the difference. They change their story according to whom they are addressing. When you want votes you work for votes. When you want protection you have to work for protection.

The hon. member who spoke before me was right in saying that the government should give more information and should listen to recommendations. We do not just criticize the minister. He is not alone in this regard. He is responsible for the department but he is not responsible for all the government's policies.

I know the stand which members of the Liberal party took in 1962 when they were on this side of the house. I know the criticisms they made. Oh boy, sometimes it was not pretty, but what surprised me was that when they went across to the other side of the chamber they did exactly the opposite. That surprised the Canadian people also. That, Mr. Chairman, is done. There is nothing much we can do about it but we can try to prevent similar situations and further dealings of that sort.

I will be a proud man in this chamber the day we stop taking direct orders from Washington. I do not mind our receiving advice from Washington but I would appreciate the house being told about it. We say this house is the supreme institution in Canada. That may be true in theory but in practice I wonder whether it is so. So long as we have the government across the way with the attitude it has, especially with respect to national defence, you will not make me believe that we make the decisions in this house.

I would not be surprised if there were a direct telephone line between the two defence departments in Ottawa and Washington. It would be cheaper that way because they are always communicating. Regardless of what the United States may do they want us to defend their actions. Right now they have put their foot in the soup and have burned it. Let