

Supply—External Affairs

On the other hand, we also know, as was recalled by the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) a few moments ago, that the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis) has also been selected by the government to accomplish a mission in Africa.

I would like to know from the minister what specific mission has been assigned to the hon. member for Red Deer and what specific mission has been assigned to the Minister without Portfolio.

Within the diplomatic corps are there no efficient officials who could have fulfilled the duties which were assigned to the hon. member for Red Deer?

Was a meeting held between our two temporary diplomats, if I may call them that, the hon. member for Red Deer and the Minister without Portfolio? Did they consult each other? Did they meet in order to synchronize their efforts so the delicate and difficult problems and duties assigned to each would be fulfilled according to the instructions of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and also in the best interests of all concerned?

I was on the platform in 1960, at Papineauville, when Hon. Lionel Chevrier told us about the detrimental effects of nuclear weapons. You should have heard him then telling us about the dreadful effects of the dropping of a nuclear bomb on our population. And that was to blame the government of the day for having accepted, he said, nuclear weapons.

As no action has been taken since to get rid of nuclear weapons, on the contrary—yet those who sit on the other side of the house campaigned against nuclear weapons, but at one time they rose in this chamber and said they were in favour of them—I ask the minister what progress has been made in the negotiations to free Canada from its nuclear commitments to NATO and NORAD?

Those are the questions that come to my mind.

However, if I am here when other matters are discussed, I will again prevail upon the kindness of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

[Text]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Chairman, in following the minister and the hon. members for Oxford, Greenwood, Medicine Hat and St. Hyacinthe-Bagot, there are a few things several hon. members have asked about during the debate on which we need some clarification.

20220—650

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Would it be possible to deal with them on the details? I would be very glad to deal with them then.

Mr. Woolliams: Well, I would just like to ask a few questions and I will be interested in the minister's replies. I sometimes think that the language he uses is veiled in allegory, because it is very difficult to find out at times where the minister stands on some important matters—for example, the diplomatic recognition of China, whether Canada should be a member of the O.A.S. and our stand on negotiating out of nuclear weapons today.

I have great respect for the minister, and I think many other hon. members have the same feelings as I toward him. We all enjoy putting questions to him and we also enjoy the answers. Sometimes they are very difficult to understand and we do not always understand what he means.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Sometimes he does not, himself.

Mr. Woolliams: That is right. Perhaps the minister is a little like Robert Browning, who wrote a poem and when he was asked about it several months later he said that when he wrote it he understood it, but that when he looked at it later, only God understood it.

The question I would pose immediately to the minister is the one I posed the other day. I was glad to hear the hon. member for Medicine Hat say something about this, and I was also particularly interested in the excellent address of the hon. member for Greenwood concerning whether we should recognize China. As reported at page 10154 of *Hansard* I asked this question, and I will also read the answer.

Before I read it, however, let me say this. When the minister sat on this side of the house he had some very clearcut answers to this problem. He was then in opposition looking to greener pastures, to the time when he would become minister. He felt at that time that Canada, in plain, simple language, should diplomatically recognize China. He also said without any reservation or equivocation whatever that we should become a member of the O.A.S. I am sure he was in full accord with the leader of his party at the time, now Prime Minister, that if Canada accepted nuclear weapons it would negotiate out of them when the Liberals took office.

It was with that thought in mind, and particularly in view of the new developments in China, that I posed this question, hoping that the estimates of the department would come before the house.