

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

who have followed the lead of Canada in supporting the United Nations force, expect that we shall enter into a debate which will be unreal in the circumstances under which we meet today.

This afternoon I hoped that we might possibly follow the precedent that was established in 1950, when in a grave domestic crisis we set aside the debate on the address and proceeded immediately to examine the proposals submitted to the house by the government. I hoped that we might have followed the same procedure today, and perchance it is not too late even now to hope that this might be done, and then having examined the government's proposals and the appropriations placed before us, we could proceed with a debate if the house so wished following that procedure.

What the country expects, I say, is that we should give immediate and unanimous approval of the United Nations plan for a police force and Canada's participation in that force, and pass the appropriation as quickly as possible to bring relief to the refugees who have fled the terror in Hungary. Instead of that, this afternoon we had an amendment moved which makes declarations that in my opinion and in the opinion of those associated with me who have had an opportunity of examining them are unsupported by any relevant facts. This means that the debate is unreal. The amendment reveals no policy that will assist Canada or the world in the crisis in which we find ourselves, nor will it do anything to further the objectives that I believe the majority of the Canadian people have in mind.

Having said that, of course, I shall say immediately that we neither intend to support the amendment nor do we think it is worthy of our attempting to amend it by introducing a subamendment. Therefore I say, let us get down to the issues that are facing this house and the country at the present time. Let us agree to suspend debate and proceed tomorrow to examine the appropriations and pass them as rapidly as possible. True, the costs of the United Nations force may not be pressing because they can be met out of the appropriation we have already made, but the million dollars we propose to appropriate for Hungarian relief is a pressing matter. If, as the Acting Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Rowe) said this afternoon, the million dollar appropriation is inadequate to meet the needs, then I will say that delay and no appropriation is more inadequate to meet the needs of the present situation. A million dollars is a good start. I hope that if and when we meet again in January after the

Christmas recess we find that the situation in Hungary requires a further appropriation—

**Mr. Lennard:** Why wait?

**Mr. Coldwell:** —by this house, we shall make it. One of the hon. members of the opposition says, "Why wait?" Well, the amendment introduced this afternoon means delay at the present time—

**Mr. Lennard:** Oh, it takes only 24 hours.

**Mr. Coldwell:** If it takes only 24 hours that is not as bad as I thought, but bad enough.

**Mr. Lennard:** That is not after Christmas.

**Mr. Coldwell:** In any event, a million dollar initial appropriation is worth supporting and passing as quickly as possible and this should be done not later than tomorrow, in my opinion. Let us all appreciate the urgency of the present situation as far as the refugees are concerned.

I am not going to say a great deal about the situation in Hungary, but I would like to mention one thing. When I landed in this country on October 27 after having been in Europe for some 11 weeks I learned for the first time what was happening in Hungary, and I immediately expressed my opinion in no uncertain terms. As a matter of fact I think what has happened in Hungary, the shooting down of unarmed and helpless people in the streets of Budapest, is scarcely paralleled in the history of the world, and it brands the Soviet union not only as an aggressor but as a cruel and more than dictatorial power.

We could not do anything to help the people of Hungary in their struggle for freedom in that country when they made the revolutionary move, but anything we can do now to relieve them either through the Red Cross or the United Nations should be undertaken by this country.

We are told that we have large surpluses accumulating this year, larger perhaps than they may appear when the next budget is brought down. We do have surpluses, and in my opinion no country is better able to undertake relief of this nature out of the blessings of Providence than is Canada at the present time. I think we should do everything we can to relieve the distress caused by the situation that has developed in Hungary. Nor should we overlook the fact when we are discussing it that this has arisen very largely because we have not had the machinery in the United Nations to deal with situations of this description as they might arise.

May I say that with all our broadcasting to these peoples in the satellite countries,