

External Affairs

out, Canada's own position is that being a communist country is no necessary bar to Canadian diplomatic recognition. So from the viewpoint of realism, in view of the fact that we have a country of nearly 700 million people situated on the other side of the Pacific from the west coast of our country, we say in the interests of Canada at this time, a peace loving and reasonable and sensible country, that now is the time for us to extend recognition, and that hand in hand with that recognition we feel sure will come a greater expansion of inter-country trade.

That is something which is most certainly needed at this present time in our country, particularly so in the province of British Columbia. If time permitted I could read statements of the truck loggers' association in British Columbia, boards of trade, trade unions, all expressing their strong opinion that recognition on a diplomatic level would greatly assist in expanding export business from this country.

Mr. Speaker, it had been my intention to speak for almost my full time on this matter, but as you know, sir, I have been boxed in on time and I feel that I would be absolutely derelict in my responsibility if I did not leave time for others on both sides of the house to express their opinions on this matter.

In conclusion, may I say that this motion is moved in all sincerity. It is moved with an understanding of the international situation and in the belief that a great many, if not the majority, of thinking people in this country now believe it is time Canada stood on her own feet in foreign policy matters and ceased to be a satellite of the United States. It is time we faced the facts as they are, and in the interest of Canada now, and in the greater interest of Canada in the future I suggest that this motion deserves not only study but endorsement by all hon. members in this house so that the government, knowing the views of parliament on this matter, may take upon itself responsibility for according early diplomatic recognition to the republic of China.

(Translation):

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I take part in this evening's debate, because under present circumstances it is my duty to oppose the passing of the resolution before us. I am surprised, however, that it should have been introduced by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch). Either the hon. member for Vancouver East hardens his heart from one session to the other, or he sets himself to changing his

[Mr. Winch.]

mind. Though I have not been sitting in this house for long, I noticed that the measures advocated by the hon. member are contradictory in principle. Could it be, on his part and on that of his political group, the last flickering glimmer of a dying flame?

Indeed, during the last session the hon. member for Vancouver East was asking for the abolition of capital punishment in this country, under the pretext that hanging was a remainder of barbaric customs and contrary to the dignity of man in our improved civilization. In fact, as can be seen on page 714 of *Hansard* of May 30, 1958, the hon. member stated:

I hope . . . that there will be a recognition that it is time in Canada we moved ahead with modern thought, recognizing that the basis of justice and law in our country should not be that of retribution and revenge but should be that of the protection of society at all times—

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before the hon. member gets too far in that direction I wish to remind him that we are not debating the question of the abolition of capital punishment.

Mr. Pallett: I think, with respect, that the hon. member may be laying the foundation for an argument. I think that if you allow him to continue you will find that this is directly relevant.

Mr. Speaker: I should just like to tell the hon. member that I do not think it is relevant to make the argument that the member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) is inconsistent in other matters. The hon. member for Sherbooke may have some other point in view, but I think I should caution him that he is straying from the subject.

(Translation):

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, I now come to the main idea, the substance of this resolution, and say that the representative of Vancouver East is now asking recognition of a government which has applied the worse methods of barbarism and vengeance, and which shamelessly continues to attack the dignity of the human being.

This resolution asks for the recognition of the government of the People's Popular Republic of China. In this connection, there are two schools of thought.

One group of people, generally in favour of recognizing Communist China, put forward the two following arguments: first, the Communists are now in firm and permanent control of the Chinese mainland. Although