

NORAD—Canada-U.S. Agreement

questions we have asked, and we feel we can have no confidence in the confusing answers which the two senior ministers have given. We expect the Prime Minister himself to clear up these misunderstandings. This movement has always been in support of collective security.

Mr. Nesbitt: How about German rearmament?

Mr. Regier: It has always hesitated to do anything that might endanger the peace of the world or the safety of our country and in answer to the hon. member for Oxford I may say that in the last parliament the C.C.F. section had a higher proportion of veterans in its ranks than any other section of the house. We are asking these things in all sincerity and we expect our Prime Minister to answer them.

Mr. Speaker: If the Prime Minister speaks now he will close the debate.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that I would have been allowed sufficient time before the adjournment hour today to have dealt with the many arguments that have been advanced, but this now appears to be impossible having regard to the fact that only ten minutes remain and it is necessary for me to leave very shortly in order to meet the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom who commences his visit with us this evening.

However, in a few moments I will deal with one or two matters that have been raised. I have listened to the hon. member who has just taken his seat. I am one of those who through the years have had a regard for my friends opposite, and when they speak with sincerity, whether I agree with them or not, they do uphold the principles of parliament. The hon. gentleman who just resumed his seat spoke with great vehemence and because I have known him through the years I can also add that he spoke with sincerity and I pay tribute to him in that regard.

To my hon. friends of the C.C.F. may I say that to a major extent they all endeavoured at the beginning of their arguments, including the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge), to suggest that because NORAD was not connected with NATO and might have a weakening effect on NATO action therefore should be taken to bring it under NATO control completely and directly. All the hon. gentlemen of that group who spoke on this matter are from the province of British Columbia and all based their arguments on that ground. To that end they moved an amendment in these words:

That the motion be amended by adding thereto the following words:

[Mr. Regier.]

And in the opinion of this house consideration of the interests of collective security and the principles of the United Nations make it advisable for the government to give consideration to the taking of such steps as are necessary to integrate these agreements within the structure of NATO.

That was their view but it strikes me as passing strange that on June 2, 1958, at their convention in the province of British Columbia, the British Columbia C.C.F. party went on record as being opposed to NATO, urging Canada's withdrawal from it and finding collective security through the United Nations. A report to this effect is contained in the *Vancouver Province* of Monday, June 2, 1958. Apparently they have the best of two worlds: they have adopted one policy for their party in British Columbia from which most of them come and another policy in the House of Commons when they are speaking to the Canadian people as a whole.

A former outstanding member of this house who represented the constituency of Nanaimo, Mr. Colin Cameron, spoke on that occasion to the convention and as reported in the newspaper article to which I have referred said:

It is an open secret in Ottawa that from a military point of view NATO is down the drain. Proof that it is down the drain comes from the United States consistent refusal to place under it the American strategic air command.

Mr. Cameron went on to say this:

NATO has proved to be the major stumbling block to settlement in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of inconsistency, ambiguity and confusion that arouses the doubts to which my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) referred. Where is the consistency? My hon. friends of the C.C.F. have spoken long and volubly of their deep affection for NATO but even before they rose to speak in this house the organization that speaks for them officially from the province of British Columbia went on record as saying, "Do away with NATO".

Now we come to the Liberal attitude. My hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition spoke about doubts, ambiguities, confusion and contradiction. I say it is dangerous for any political party to arouse fears in the hearts of people. My hon. friend and those associated with him endeavoured to do that during the recent election campaign. They said to the people of Canada all the things they have said in this house in the last 24 hours. They indulged in what my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition likes to refer to on occasion as "agitated exaggeration" but the Canadian people would not be stamped