

the fact that United States troops are obeying orders, as is their duty, and says:

Unfortunately, in a war like this, there are bound to be acts of barbarism on both sides... If the escalation of the war continues, as seems probable, and the North Vietnamese do not give up soon, one may wonder if the United States will be driven to use nuclear bombs or to spread germs or exterminating chemicals.

If ever there was a case of urgency, this is one. If we have this discussion in the debate on the speech from the throne we can talk but we cannot get an answer from the government. Finally the minister said this:

From Canada's standpoint the grave dangers in the present situation are fourfold:

1. The present conflict may reinforce a natural distrust of all westerners and of all white people on the part of millions of non-whites throughout the world—
2. The second danger is that Russia and China may become reconciled as a result of their opposition to U.S. action in Viet Nam—
3. The third danger that could result from a further escalation of the war is the direct involvement of red China—
4. Finally, there is the gravest danger that if the United States uses nuclear weapons, the Russians would retaliate immediately.

Then he concludes:

I have read the suggestions put forward by U Thant, by our own Prime Minister, by the Honourable Paul Martin, by General Gavan, and by other thoughtful and informed Americans. They do not differ in essentials.

If ever there was a case for an instant debate, Mr. Speaker, so this government can tell us where it stands, so we may bring out from the hidden recesses the true facts of this government's policy, this is it. I say there should be an immediate debate for that reason, and because of the gross travesty on the rights of parliament when policies are enunciated outside this house which are a direct contradiction of what the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said in the last few weeks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The purpose of the right hon. gentleman's intervention at this point was to assist the Chair in determining whether there was a matter of urgency of debate, according to the standing orders and the practice of this house. I may tell hon. members that I am ready to make a decision now. I do not, of course, want to stifle debate in this regard, but I can assure hon. members that what they will be saying now will not change my mind, and thus cannot help the house in any way.

*Speech by President of the Privy Council*

A motion has been made. It is for the Chair to determine whether it is acceptable, and I am prepared to reach a decision. However, if some hon. members feel they should contribute either in opposing or supporting the motion that is now before the house I will hear them for a moment.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, though the members of this party are diametrically opposed to the terms in which the motion is couched, I think there is a case for urgency of debate with regard to the speech by the President of the Privy Council, as well as for a statement by the government with reference to Canada's position in connection with the war in Viet Nam.

The President of the Privy Council has made a statement. It is a statement we welcome, one which we think sets forth with very great clarity and realism the situation which now obtains in Southeast Asia. We feel the government should give an opportunity at the earliest possible date for a full discussion of this matter in order that the house may have an opportunity either of endorsing or repudiating the statements which have been made by the President of the Privy Council.

In his statement in Toronto he set forth the position very clearly when he said "that Canadians in all walks of life and in all political parties, including especially the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, should do all they can to press the United States to halt the bombing." "If we fail to do this," he said, "we must be prepared to share the responsibility of those whose policies involve the greatest risks for all mankind."

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, on the basis of that clear, clarion call to all Canadians and to members of all political parties, that some opportunity ought to be given to this house to echo that call. We are not going to have an opportunity to do this, Mr. Speaker, unless the government is willing to initiate debate on the whole question. For some time we have been pressing the Prime Minister to introduce a motion in the house in order that parliament as a whole, rather than the government, may state its position on the situation in Southeast Asia. Since the government has failed to do this it seems to me that the speech made by the President of the Privy Council offers this house an excellent opportunity to have a debate and state its position. We would hope, of course, that the statement of our position would not be in the terms of