

External Affairs

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain):—if the farmers want cash—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the hon. member put his question without quoting the minister?

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): Is it the policy of the government, as announced by the minister, to recommend, if the western farmers want cash, that they feed their surplus grain to livestock? If so, does he not feel that it might undermine the price structure of the livestock industry in Canada?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): In order to inform my hon. friend just exactly what I did say I shall send him a copy of the speech.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSREFERENCE OF ESTIMATES OF DEPARTMENT
TO STANDING COMMITTEE

The house resumed, from Tuesday, March 30, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson:

That items Nos. 84 to 103 inclusive, of the main estimates, 1954-55, be withdrawn from the committee of supply and referred to the standing committee on external affairs, saving always the powers of the committee of supply in relation to the voting of public moneys.

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in the debate which is now before this house, it is not my intention to be unduly repetitious nor to speak upon any of the subjects which have been discussed here during these past few days. It has been a lengthy debate but, in my opinion, it has been a most useful and worth-while one. We have heard discussion and statements from the government and from members of the opposition on such matters as the Berlin conference, the projected Geneva conference, and arms to Pakistan; arguments for and against the recognition of Red China; and academic discussions on communism and anti-communism. All of these things are of the utmost importance and the discussion was worth while. However, Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to speak at all on all of those matters, important as they are. I do not profess to be an expert on foreign affairs and so I shall leave all those discussions to those who are experts or who profess to be. There is, however, one phase that comes under this debate upon which I feel impelled to speak. In doing so, I admit I am not doing it because I am a scientist; I am not. I am doing it because of the crucial and critical matters that have been drawn to the attention of the peoples of the world, in particular in the last few weeks. I refer to the matter of the hydrogen bomb.

[Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain.)]

It has been intimated clearly upon more than one occasion by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) that he intends to speak and that he looks forward with anticipation to the remarks which he will make at the close of this debate. I fully realize that he will undoubtedly be commenting upon many of the things that have been said by the various speakers during the past few days and will undoubtedly be answering a number of the questions that have been hurled at him. But my purpose in rising at this time is to tell the Secretary of State for External Affairs that I think he would be seriously derelict in his duty or in his responsibility if he were not able, when he speaks, to take the House of Commons and the people of Canada into his confidence and give all the information possible as to the situation with regard to the hydrogen bomb; the policies as far as he knows them that are now in existence involving the experimentation in the use of that bomb; and, of more importance, the proposals which the minister may have or, I think I will say, should have as to the stand which Canada should take in this critical period of our history.

There are undoubtedly millions of people in this world who believe in the statement that a deity created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. There are undoubtedly many more millions who do not take that view but who accept the view of scientists that through the process of evolution over millions of years the world as we know it came to its present form. I am not going into any academic discussion of how the world came into being. But the fact is this. Over untold millions of years there has been in existence this world, but we are now in the position, in the year 1954, where all the evidence makes it completely conclusive that, unless there is some sanity in the parliaments of the world and unless we arrive at sanity between the nations of the world, man in his stupidity can in the matter of minutes or hours definitely destroy mankind and perhaps the world itself.

Admittedly we are a small nation but we are an important one. In my humble opinion this house could do well by spending a little bit more time to see whether it would not be possible for us to arrive at policies and conclusions whereby the Secretary of State for External Affairs or perhaps the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) could give a militant, sane and dynamic lead to the other leaders throughout the world as to what should be done in view of the situation as it is understood by the people since the explosion of the first hydrogen bomb on March 1. It is no exaggeration to state that if we have such people who can release the