

new disarmament commission. I wonder if they might take the ball, so to speak, and think they had better get in on the meetings. Statements made in the latter stages of the discussions in the sub-committee, and in the general assembly, and from Soviet sources—including the recent trends of their propaganda—suggest that for the present the Soviet Union has little interest in serious disarmament negotiations. They cannot—this is from my own observations, and I was there to hear part of that debate—and I do not see how they can ignore that good vote in the assembly for this proposal. It was a world judgment.

Quite a number of those who abstained, we have learned, did so because they said; what is the use of voting for any kind of a new disarmament commission if the Russians will not participate, because you cannot have negotiations with yourself—the west.

Mr. KNOWLES (*Winnipeg North Centre*): In that connection, Mr. Smith, by way of referring back to the remarks you made today, which I think you called a “bit of gloss” on what you said the other day that the east-west relations—

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): I did not intend that. I did say twice, if you will permit me, that I am not discounting in any way that there was an editorial that indicated—the text of the story did not, but the headline did—that this is a man who is advocating that we get down on our knees.

Mr. KNOWLES (*Winnipeg North Centre*): I do not know which newspaper editorial you might have referred to, but I was going to ask you if you had seen the editorial in yesterday's *Globe and Mail* which, after all, cannot exactly be called a pro-Communist publication.

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): Yes, I saw it, sir.

Mr. KNOWLES (*Winnipeg North Centre*): It seemed to speak quite appreciatively of the stand that you took, and suggested that the Russians are just as anxious to avoid annihilation as we are, and maybe want to talk to some persons in the west. If I recall it correctly, it said that the Russians might find it easier to talk to Canada than to the United States and therefore Dr. Smith's suggestion was a timely one. I wondered whether you received any invitations to follow Mr. Pearson's footsteps and make a visit to the Soviet Union?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): No, not even from my namesake.

Mr. KNOWLES (*Winnipeg North Centre*): Have there been any developments at all other than editorial comments on your statement the other day?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): No. I have seen three favourable editorial comments. The *Star* was one—the *Toronto Star* that is—and one in the east. I forget which paper it was, but it was in the maritimes.

Mr. PATTERSON: I wonder if the minister has seen any unfavourable ones?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): Yes, I saw a letter this morning which was so violent that it amused me.

Mr. HOLOWACH: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this reasoning, I was attracted by the very open remarks of the minister when he made reference to the desirability of co-existence. I was just wondering whether the minister would elaborate on his thinking in that regard. The point I make is that we have, in a sense, co-existence today. Are there any suggestions which you would like to make with respect to economical and political relations which might improve that situation?

Mr. SMITH (*Hastings-Frontenac*): I do not have at this stage, I must say directly. I have not thought it through.