

External Affairs

We have left the other nations, who are not nearly as well equipped as we are, to stand up for principles of honesty and decency in the world. In our pursuit of peaceful relations and quiet agreement with our neighbour to the south, we have been led into some extremely dubious courses. We have voted against or have abstained from voting on such questions as colonialism, on such questions as the treatment of France's colonial possessions. We have done the same thing with regard to the native population of South Africa, and the menace to human freedom and world peace that it entails. These are the things that many Canadians see that make them slightly afraid, and ashamed of being Canadians.

I suggest, sir, that the time has come for calculated risks. There are times when caution is the most reckless and dangerous course to follow. I suggest that this is one of those times. Let us for a moment consider the recent developments in United States and British military policy, and see how they fit into our role in the world scene today. We are spending some \$2 billion, presumably for defence, and yet every report from the United States and Great Britain suggests that the United States is now retreating, if one may use that word, to dependence upon peripheral strategy; to dependence upon the very thing of which Mr. Dulles spoke in the United States and to which our government took exception. They are depending upon the power to drop atom bombs on actual or potential enemies any time that they consider it necessary. I suggest, sir, in that case we may well question the value of many of our defence expenditures today. This afternoon I heard the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann) state he had been investigating slingshots. I would suggest it might be a good idea for him to investigate some of our conventional weapons to see if they are very much more valuable in an atomic age. I would suggest a careful examination of this expenditure in the light of recent developments, and in the light of the recent horrors in the Pacific, because it might well indicate a large part of these expenditures are useless burdens on our economy. Such an examination may indicate that now is the time for decisive action, a reduction in our defence expenditures and the application of those funds to aid those parts of the world which may very well fall victims to communism through internal collapse and disorder.

Yesterday the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) spoke of the necessity of a decisive act of faith. I could not agree more that we need some decisive act of faith, but not an act of faith in some

power outside ourselves to save us from the results of our own folly and stupidity. We need faith that decency, courage, toleration and plain human kindness will promote a like response from those to whom we advance it. It is perhaps ironic that one who, like myself, has no religious beliefs should feel impelled this afternoon to bear witness to the conviction that the carpenter of Nazareth was not merely giving us counsel for moral perfection but giving us a practical prescription for human relationships and international relationships when he enjoined us to love one another and bear one another's burdens. The only sure foundation for stable human relationships is found in that doctrine.

I would say this to this government. The people of Canada are expecting you to give a lead of that sort today. They are expecting you to go forward and make that decisive act of faith. Let Canada go forward into the world with this as our slogan to that age-old query, "Am I my brother's keeper?", that we have only one answer, a resounding affirmative. Then, Mr. Speaker, you and I perhaps might be able to stand before the world and say with pride that we are Canadians. Otherwise, sir, if we are too cautious, if we are careful, if we think we can solve these problems by mutual destruction, then indeed the whole long course of human history from the caves of prehistoric days to the present has been, as someone said, a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I cannot rise in this debate to deal with the subject that is presented to us, Mr. Speaker, without referring for a moment to some statements that have just been made. I noticed the quotation concerning sound and fury signifying nothing, and that is what we have heard. But it goes farther than that. This hon. member has talked about the possibility of being ashamed of being a Canadian. May I say to the hon. members in this house, whatever basis we may have for differing as to the way in which Canada proceeds with its tasks, let no Canadian rise here and say he is ashamed of being a Canadian.

He poses a question for us, am I my brother's keeper? Let us examine that question. Let us ask him and ask others who pose that question, in the context in which it has been posed, what he thinks of those saintly Russians that he has pictured who have now enslaved a larger number of people than have ever been brought under a single slavery in the history of the world. Ask him that question and pose that same question to others who echo it in relation to the people in