

*Supply—External Affairs*

this committee. However, I have yet to be informed that such a meeting has ever been held or the committee has ever been established in any active way during this parliament or the last one.

I agree with the statement made by the hon. member to the effect that every one of our delegates on every one of the committees assigned to some foreign mission should be briefed very thoroughly and carefully in the matters that concern their appointment to these committees. Certainly, as we take part in international discussions we owe it to ourselves and to our friends to be just a little more concerned with and better informed on these matters.

As we push forward into this fascinating era of change, of which we are a part, one fact strikes me forcibly. That is, that man's increasing control over nature has given him a freedom and power in his actions that he has never before known. This increasing freedom and power in turn poses a moral challenge to mankind in the realm of behaviour such as he has never before known. We no longer regard warfare between nations as some glorified entertainment and adventure in the spirit of the middle ages. We cannot even regard gunboat diplomacy as a moral duty in bringing world enlightenment in the spirit of the colonial era. It is an odd commentary in this atomic age that that which is most likely to bring peace on earth and the cultivation of Christian virtues such as charity, integrity, patience and humility between nations of the world in the 1960's is not the pious moralizing of those who wish to act solely from principle. It is the sober assessment of the risks that go with any other kind of conduct in a world where the major powers have their hands perpetually on a nuclear hair-trigger. In considering this subject I think it is up to us to see that Canada indicates her full share of these virtues. In my experience I have often seen situations which have made me aware of the fact that Canada is held in much higher regard by our friends abroad than we are willing to admit and to demonstrate by our actions.

I was interested, today, to read in the *Montreal Gazette* that a visitor from Scotland, the Earl of Dundee, had made a long range prediction in Montreal that Canada might one day be a more powerful and influential force in the world than the United States. This might be wishful thinking on the part of someone who has perhaps a better impression of what we are than we have ourselves, yet there is a certain amount of truth in it. I also received a letter today from a Canadian school teacher who took a year off from her work and went to Australia. I had an opportunity to read her letter during

[Mr. Thompson.]

the supper hour. She told me that, though very often she had been taken for an American because of her mannerisms and speech, immediately people learned she was from Canada there was a new expression of friendship on their faces. This applied not only during her stay in Australia but in the other countries through which she travelled. I have seen this happen over and over again, and it is something which has always perplexed me. How is it that we, as Canadians, enjoy so much good will among our friends across the world when, as a nation, we have actually done so little to deserve it? Perhaps it is because Canadians in their own pioneering way have gone out to accept opportunities to help their fellowmen, without a lot of show and publicity. The fact remains that we do enjoy a great deal of good will in the world and I am confident this has come about because of Canadian individuals, not because of anything which the Canadian nation has done.

If we could only understand this, I believe the prediction yesterday by this visitor who came to us from Britain might become something not far from the truth and that Canada might indeed be a more influential nation in the world than it is today—possibly more influential than the United States. We certainly do not suffer from the handicap under which many of our friends in other countries labour. We are not associated with a legacy of economic or colonial imperialism. In these circumstances we can make friends easier and our work does not give rise to those doubts and suspicions which so often fall on other nationals. But I am disappointed that we in Canada are not doing more to take advantage of this favourable position.

In my brief remarks tonight I should like to review our foreign policy as it affects four main areas with which we are associated. First, I should like to refer to the American hemisphere. We cannot think about our relations with our neighbours in this area without being mindful of the tragedy which hit the United States last week, in the cruel assassination of President Kennedy. Perhaps no world leader has had more world vision and backed it up with more dynamic action than did the late president. We feel very keenly, particularly right here in the American hemisphere, the loss of this leader in world affairs. It has been reassuring to us to hear the new President affirm his determination to go forward with the policies initiated by the late President Kennedy. It has been particularly welcome news to hear him say that action, rather than mere words, is needed now to tackle the question of civil rights in the United States. I think we can take a lesson