

*Supply—External Affairs*

who see over one third of the national tax revenues devoted to maintaining and equipping armed forces?

I wonder whether any hon. member has had the experience, as I have had recently, of trying to explain to a 13 year old child how it has come to pass that in 1961, having the benefit of all the wisdom and inventive genius of the great minds of 20 centuries, the leaders of the world today are snarling at each other, threatening war and talking about dropping a bomb which would destroy millions of people. All I can say is that when you try to explain this you realize how bad things have become and how important it is that Canada continue to press for disarmament.

The second reason I have for speaking in this debate is that I believe I have an obligation to my constituents to say in parliament what I think about world affairs. In saying this, Mr. Chairman, I am fully conscious of how little I know. The week before last I was in Europe and had conversations there with some Canadian foreign service officers and other people who have some knowledge of European affairs. When one considers what is happening in Berlin and knows that our leaders have the advice of experienced and trained experts one has reason to wonder whether anything one can say can be of any help at all. I think members of parliament have a duty to try to assist the experts. We have better facilities and opportunities for becoming and keeping informed about those problems than most of our constituents have. No matter how complex some of the problems appear we must try to understand them and make suggestions. The right to make suggestions in parliament is a right which is given to very few Canadians. I hope hon. members will forgive me for stating the obvious. I am very much aware of the privilege which is mine in being here and having the right to say what I think about these things. I recall hearing the hon. member for Greenwood speak years ago on this subject, and I have not forgotten what he said. What an excellent example is set by that hon. gentleman for those of us who have arrived here fairly recently.

The third reason I wish to speak tonight, Mr. Chairman, is to make some proposals. The other day I read a statement attributed to Senator J. William Fulbright, who is chairman of the United States Senate committee on foreign relations. He said this:

I, for one, am not at all certain that the principles and values of western civilization represent the common aspirations of all peoples.

I was surprised to read this because, like the Washington correspondent for *Maclean's*

magazine who used this quotation, I have a deep admiration and respect for Mr. Fulbright and generally agree with the speeches he has made which I have seen in print. Hon. members may be glad to know that I do not propose tonight to give a discourse on the principles and values of western civilization. It does seem to me, however, that if properly defined they do represent the common aspirations of all peoples. What are they? I think the principles are derived from Judaism and Christianity; that there is a God who loves all people and if people understand love and practice honesty and charity they can aspire to a satisfying life. I know that these things are not fully understood by many people in Canada or elsewhere, but I think there is a force which is pressing all of us to live by this principle and a deep-seated desire in all of us to do so.

I think that the values are derived from the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome and western Europe. What are they? The first, of course, is freedom which I think is the right to think and act without arbitrary control or direction by the government. I think that the other values are companion values to political freedom, which have gradually come into common acceptance with the passage of time. Does freedom not represent the common aspiration of all peoples? Again, we are dealing with something which is not understood by many people struggling each day in Latin America or southeast Asia, as well as many other parts of the world, to get enough to eat and drink. Many of these people are unable to read and cannot be expected to know the meaning of freedom. I think it is one of the innate desires of all human beings. I think, therefore, on this count also Senator Fulbright may be wrong.

It is fashionable in some quarters these days, Mr. Chairman, to say that western countries, especially the United States, in trying to impose their standards and methods have done more harm than good. Books like "The Ugly American" and "A Nation of Sheep" are given a big play. If you do not agree with these books, you are considered a reactionary. Leaving aside the massive economic assistance which has been given by the United States to the newly emerging nations I say, with few exceptions, that government has a good record in its attempt to establish conditions which would give people political freedom.

I think also, as does the Prime Minister of Canada, that the time has come for precise declarations on the part of the non-communist countries of their principles and aims. This must be done and done soon to overcome the phony image of western ideals and the