

External Affairs

have a psychological effect in assuring doubtful peoples in various parts of the world that the United States does not have its finger on the trigger. The ratification of western European union by the various countries mentioned by the minister gives hope for the future. On the other hand, the mobilization of the U.S.S.R. and the seven puppet states that are today united in a military organization under Soviet command makes one pause.

No problem we face can be greater than this. Our aim and desire is peace, yet every minute of every day \$165,000 is being expended throughout the world on armaments. That is the expenditure today on the preparation of armaments in every part of the world. One sometimes wonders whether Liddell Hart was not justified in the statement he made the other day, that it is very questionable whether much of the defence planning and expenditure since 1945 has been realistic.

I come now to the reference by the minister to the need of assistance to countries in Asia. He indicated that the armies of communism march on the empty stomachs of their potential recruits. I think it was Gandhi who, as I recall, said that to the millions who have to go without two meals a day the only acceptable form in which God dares appear is food. The minister spoke of the solicitude of the government, the fact that hunger entices men, and communism is thereby encouraged.

I ask the minister whether the precepts he has declared have been carried out in the recommendations of the government which he represents. What of the Colombo plan? What of this plan that is to assist mankind by raising living standards in various parts of the world? With pomp and ceremony the nations of the world met here last October. On that occasion the Prime Minister made a speech in the form of a prayer. He said:

May an all-wise Providence, ever attentive to the efforts of men of good will, look with favour upon our efforts to assist each other.

As one newspaper said, graceful speeches do not feed hungry nations. One of them even went so far as to indicate that the minister alone of the members of the cabinet to which he belongs is a strong believer in the need of action in this direction. What are we doing? We are making pious declarations but are not coupling those declarations with effective action through votes in this connection placed before parliament. I do not believe in extravagant promises. My hon. friends to the left speak of a billion dollars.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Personally I think such a figure is as unrealistic as the present contribution of Canada is out of keeping with Canada's responsibilities.

The minister spoke in powerful language and phraseology of the tremendous advantages of movements such as this; yet the government of Canada intends this year to increase the contribution of each and every Canadian by 15 cents per person. That is an example of the precept not being matched by the performance. The total contribution being made by Canada in connection with technological advances and improvements in less fortunate lands will amount this year to \$2.06 per person. I sometimes wonder whether the minister was affected by a speech made by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) a few short months ago. The Minister of Agriculture stated then that the situation in Asia was not very serious after all, since there were 100 million people in India who lived on a higher standard than did Canadians. That is not in keeping with the speech made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in the house in 1950, on which occasion he used these words in support of the need of assistance under plans similar or analogous to the Colombo plan. He said, as found at page 131 of *Hansard* of February 22:

The social and economic danger arises out of the fact that the people out there—

He is speaking of Asia.

—are learning that independence is not enough.

Today he used words similar in kind but different in actuality.

The agitation for freedom has stirred up in them other desires; for improvements in their conditions of life; for a change from distress, privation and even starvation; for a change from a life expectancy of 20 years and an average income of less than \$50 a year. These new democratic governments are attempting to meet these new hungers, these new hopes, these new demands. There is danger not only to their own countries but to the rest of the world if they do not succeed in that attempt. But they are meeting these dangers as responsible, free, democratic governments, proceeding stage by stage without, as they progress, destroying the framework of society or of government.

I say to the minister that while his declarations are magnificent in their idealism he should do something to change the thinking of some of the ministers who sit with him, to the end that these ideals may be translated into effective action. No one can tell a serious-minded Canadian that Canada today is making the contribution in that connection which the demands of the times require.

Having said that, I pass on to an event that will occur during the coming months, the