

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, November 24, 1969

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY— RATIFICATION BY U.S. AND U.S.S.R.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, seldom does a Prime Minister of Canada rise in the House of Commons to comment on activities undertaken by foreign governments. Nevertheless, the simultaneous steps taken this morning by the United States and the Soviet Union are of such importance to all of mankind that I regard it as entirely proper to use this opportunity to bring them to the attention of all hon. members, all the more so as in my statement at the beginning of the session this is what the government of Canada asked these two governments to do.

At eleven o'clock this morning the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union announced their intention to deposit forthwith instruments of ratification of the non-proliferation treaty, a step which our government and other governments have been urging for some time. This event will hopefully precede the coming into force of the treaty, which Canada and 20 other countries have already ratified.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that hon. members will join me in welcoming this important decision and in hoping that it will be followed by others of similar importance during the strategic arms limitation talks now being held in Helsinki.

[*English*]

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, the news announced by the Prime Minister will receive widespread approval throughout the world. I hope that the next countries that will see fit to ratify the treaty will be France and the Federal Republic of Germany. As a matter of fact, the latter has recently announced that it will take such a step. It becomes increasingly important that

continental China, the country with the largest population in the world, be brought within the community of nations so that she can be a party to some of these instruments that may result in the survival of mankind.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I am sure that members in all parts of the House join with the Prime Minister in expressing great pleasure that this first step toward reaching a non-proliferation treaty has been taken by the United States and the U.S.S.R. I hope that the Canadian government will press on to urge the establishment of an underground test ban treaty and that we will also continue to press for changes in the proposed treaty with respect to seabed nuclear installations. I think Mr. George Ignatieff has been taking a very excellent position on this matter in Geneva. I hope the Canadian government will support him and get the support of other countries to take this necessary step.

However, Mr. Speaker, the whole question of nuclear arms is so far-reaching in its implications for mankind that I do not think we can ever be satisfied until we have succeeded in getting the nations of the world, in particular the nuclear nations, to agree to a treaty which will not only ban testing and reduce proliferation but will finally ban the manufacturing, storing and use of nuclear weapons in every field. I hope that this is the position which the Canadian government will press in the various international agencies when our representatives sit down with the representatives of other countries.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, we from the Ralliement créditiste are pleased to learn that the world is now taking a course that will encourage the various countries to realize that they are in danger of being completely wiped out if they carry on the nuclear arms race.

We are quite pleased to learn from the Prime Minister of Canada himself that the United States and Russia have concluded this morning an agreement to restrict the production and use of nuclear weapons.