

External Affairs

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, in the few moments at my disposal before ten o'clock I would like to deal with some of the things we have heard about from the hon. member for Eglinton Mr. (Fleming). Naturally enough I do not share the horror with which he apparently views, not only the statement of the leader of the C.C.F. but also the statement which the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. St. Laurent) made in this house this afternoon.

I was particularly interested in the hon. member's denunciation of the communist regime in China for its attempt to fight its way into what he termed "polite international company". It sometimes seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that we use words in a very strange manner. I am not quite sure what the hon. member's definition of "polite international company" is. Possibly it includes Francisco Franco of Spain, with whom the hon. member for Eglinton seems to have affinity; perhaps it includes all the little squalid dictatorships of Central America; perhaps it includes Dr. Salazar of Portugal; and I presume he must also include in that polite international society that member state of the United Nations which is the object of his fear and enmity, the Soviet union and all its satellites in Europe.

I wonder whether he considers as one of the members of that polite international society the successor of a regime which shot its way into power, and whether the hon. member for Eglinton would not suggest that even at this late date we should perhaps withdraw recognition from the administration in Washington.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we have to be a little realistic about this thing. We have to recognize the facts of life, however unpalatable they may be, and I would suggest that the logical consequence of our hon. friend's thesis is that as there is no possibility of being able to sit down in peace and amity with the present rulers of China then, of course, the only alternative is to blast them out of existence. On that score, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the hon. member and all those who feel as he feels have been grossly negligent in their duty for several years past, because we were perhaps in a rather better position to blast them out of existence a few years ago and we neglected our opportunity.

I wondered, Mr. Speaker, particularly when I listened this afternoon to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson), if other people had the same reaction that I had when we were made to realize the real extent of the change in world relationships which has taken place during my lifetime.

I can recall before the days of 1914 when there were in the world a number of states, some of quite modest power, which nevertheless were able to pursue a fairly independent foreign policy within fairly wide limits because of their ability to either add or detract from the strength of some existing power bloc. It was on their ability to upset or to maintain this delicate balance of power that these states, most of them located in Europe, were able at that time to pursue a relatively independent foreign policy. In those days a discussion such as we are having this evening taking place in the parliament of one of those nations would, I imagine, have been devoted very largely to the actual discussion of that nation's foreign policy, what course it was going to pursue, and what independent stand it was going to take.

All that world went down the drain when the Germans marched into Belgium in August, 1914, and today we have an entirely different situation, so different that if we are to have a realistic discussion of Canada's foreign policy we are obliged in actual fact to discuss not so much our own foreign policy but the foreign policies of the two colossal power blocs in the world. I believe the Secretary of State for External Affairs illustrated that very well this afternoon, because you will recall, sir, that a very large part of his address was devoted to a discussion and interpretation and, shall I say, a dissection of the foreign policy of our great neighbour to the south.

I believe one might well say that in that situation the foreign policy of a nation such as Canada must concern itself not only with the overt foreign policy of our great ally, or the overt foreign policy of our great hostile antagonist, but must also, as far as we are able, devote itself to a dissection and analysis of the internal affairs within these countries which develop that foreign policy.

I believe one might say, Mr. Speaker, that the two recent addresses the Secretary of State for External Affairs made in the United States and to which he referred this afternoon were welcomed with a sigh of relief from every intelligent Canadian. Some of us may have felt that they came rather late on the scene. Some of us may have perhaps felt that they might have been underlined more decisively, but nevertheless I believe the general reaction was one of relief among intelligent Canadians that at last the government of Canada was preparing to do the only thing that is open to it in the present state of world affairs, and that is to attempt to