

The Address—Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent

be the commander of that force is not let down, if we can prevent him from being let down by supplying him with what he thinks he requires and that he is not apt to get from other contributors to this United Nations force.

Mr. Pallett: Why not?

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): Well, why not? I hope there will not be any question of why not. I hope everyone will agree that this is what should be done by the Canadian people. I am expressing that hope here and I am rather inclined to believe that even the hon. gentleman would share that hope.

Mr. Sinclair: Hear, hear; we hope so.

Mr. Pallett: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister a question for purposes of clarification?

Mr. Stuart (Charlotte): One more.

Mr. Pallett: "Why not" was meant in this way. Why would the other countries not contribute if it was a United Nations force?

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): Other countries are contributing but the suggestion was made that their contribution should be—and the original suggestion to us was that the contribution should be—in the form of a battalion, a unit that could serve as a unit. Now other things are required. I have heard some suggestion that we were arming our people with typewriters instead of arming them with machine guns. Well, I think those who have had any experience with the administration of a modern army know that a lot of administration work is required. The hon. gentleman, if he were over there, would find that the administrative forces that General Burns is asking for are not going to be sufficient to take care of 10 times the number of men he is going to have under his command, and I do not suspect General Burns of making extravagant requests. That has not been our experience with him. When he was deputy minister of the Department of Veterans Affairs I do not think it was the experience of representatives of veterans that he was extravagant in meeting the demands that were made for the improvement of assistance, pensions or the like, of veterans. He was realistic. I feel that he was fair, and I think he is going to be realistic and he is going to be fair in the way in which he administers this United Nations force.

I have already spoken too long. Before taking my place I do want to thank the mover (Mr. Legare) and the seconder (Mr. Weselak) of the address. I think they both made appropriate speeches, and I am sorry that the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe

[Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East).]

(Mr. Rowe) and I have not been able to follow their good examples and compress our remarks into the space of about 15 minutes for each of us.

(Translation):

I congratulate them most heartily and I regret that circumstances have not permitted me nor the honourable member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe) to follow their example and discuss the important matter which now requires our attention, in the short space of time they found sufficient to express their opinion so impressively on the international situation as they saw it when they took part in the discussions of the General Assembly since it began its sittings on November 12 last.

(Text):

Mr. Coldwell: Mr. Speaker, there are three clocks in the chamber and each of them shows a different time. My watch says it is nine minutes to six, and if the house wishes I shall proceed with my remarks.

Some hon. Members: Go ahead.

Mr. Coldwell: If the house wishes me to call it six o'clock I will call it six o'clock in accordance with the clock on the government side of the house.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): We will try to see that these clocks are in better harmony than perhaps we may find among ourselves in the course of the debate on this occasion.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggarr): Mr. Speaker, I think we are all aware that parliament is meeting today under the shadow of a great international crisis, perhaps a greater crisis than the world has witnessed since September, 1939. The issues involved today are of such a nature that they might bring about even a third world war and therefore one is constrained to ask oneself, what does the country expect of this parliament at the present time?

I think the people of this country expect that we should give unanimous and speedy approval to the further supplementary estimates that have been introduced this afternoon, and that this shall be done in order to meet the needs of our armed forces which are proceeding overseas and to meet the dreadful situation from which the refugees from Soviet terror in Hungary have fled.

I say this is what is expected of us. I do not think this country, nor indeed the nations