

Economic Relations with United States

Samarkand or to the Coral Reefs, but I wonder why he does not go to Washington. I wonder why, in this crucial time, the Ottawa-Washington hotline has gone dead, has grown cold. I wonder why when I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) about a measure or about an opinion which is important, and which should be conveyed to the United States, I receive a reply through indirect discourse that the United States knows our position, that they hear our speeches at the United Nations and know our opinions. However, when we ask if that opinion was conveyed to Washington we do not get the answer "yes"; that is the problem.

With all due deference to Mackenzie King, indirect discourse is not the way to do it. On this matter of Amchitka which troubles us today we have reached the stage where there is one man and one man alone in this country who can make contact with the one man in the United States who has the decision. The Congress of the United States has very clearly and definitely laid the matter at the doorstep of the President. The chief executive of this country is the Prime Minister. He is the man to contact the President even at the eleventh hour. How far are we removed from the days of the good neighbour, the era of Franklin Roosevelt and Mackenzie King, when our leaders spoke freely and regularly on matters concerning our countries. How far are we removed from the spirit of Hyannis Port of which we heard a few years ago. When a phone call cannot and will not be placed, the Canadian people have a right to know why. What has happened? Do we have nothing but indirect discourse for the transmission of opinions? Is that all we have left?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Sharp: Resolutions of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members will remember there is an order of the House that there cannot be an extension of time, so the hon. member really should be given a chance to complete his remarks without interruption.

Mr. Macquarrie: I assume I have eight minutes, Mr. Speaker, and will use seven of them. I say to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, if he can hear me through the patter of the seated orators around him, why cannot the once good neighbours converse as they used to converse. I ask why, in a day of very, very serious economic problems and difficulties in the economic relations between the two countries, there is not some form of summitry at the Ottawa-Washington level. That is the question which should be asked and must be answered. We cannot be a Yugoslavia. I read that a great British newspaper believes Mr. Trudeau wants to be a western Tito. He cannot be a General de Gaulle. That may be appealing but that is not for Canada. We cannot for many reasons, hard reasons, such as geography, history, economics and all the rest, forsake our role as an important integrated ally of the United States. All the talk about countervailing forces, and all the talk about enjoyable anti-Americanism, will never remove the hard facts of life which make it necessary for us to deal with the United States from strength, in our own interests, and not leave it all to indirect discourse.

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

I say to the Prime Minister, let not brittleness, pique, pride or petulance prevent him from contacting the President of the United States on these grave economic issues which are hurting our people. We have had enough economic suffering from the atrocious bungling of the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macquarrie: This country does not need a further economic burden placed upon its people because of the bungling in respect of the relations between the two countries, the United States and Canada. That is the great problem. I say to the Prime Minister, let him not miss an opportunity to speak in friendliness, to speak in frankness and candor, but for heavens sake to speak to the government of the United States. We have had our troubles with the United States. It does not require a genius to point out its errors or to dilate upon its inequities and inequalities, but there is still no substitute for a good working relationship between our two countries.

It is not so long ago that we had the President of the United States in this very Chamber. I refer to President Kennedy who was here a decade ago. How long ago it seems since he was introduced by the present member for Prince Albert, who was then the Prime Minister. The then Prime Minister referred to another New Englander, Robert Frost, and referred to that poet's inscription on the guest book of Hebrew University in Jerusalem in these words, "Something there is that does not love a wall—it is friendship".

In these difficult and trying days there is too much sniping and too little understanding, too much sniping and too little dialoguing, too much grandstanding and too little understanding.

But we all remember, those of us who were here, what the young President said. He spoke about the realities that bound our two countries to a destiny which cannot be dealt with callously or casually. He said:

Geography has made us neighbours. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together let no man put asunder—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macquarrie: I actually hear groans from members in this House.

Mr. Nesbitt: From the Moscovites.

Mr. Macquarrie: I must say I am not at all ashamed to honour the memory and words of the former President of the United States. I would say that if any constituent or fellow Canadian of mine thought I was jeering at or mocking his words I would be very quick to deny that I had anything to do with such intellectual indecency. I am not reluctant to say that these great words, the aspirations uttered at that time and the admonitions set forth, are eminently worthy of consideration and adoption today. It does not upset me that the House has displayed unusually bad manners on a matter which should commend itself to top priority considerations. If the economic well-being of Canadians, if relations between this country and its most important neighbour, are not important, I wonder how far down the road of irresponsibility we have in fact gone.