

for my friends of the C.C.F. party.

The position that they take, if I interpret that position correctly, is that while this statement in the circumstances which I have mentioned may be true, I should not have said it because it might be misconstrued in the United States and because of that misconception they will feel, as someone put it, that they now have Canada in the bag, that our influence will have been weakened or will even possibly have vanished in Washington.

Who would be fooling whom by remaining silent about Canada's position in the conditions which I have outlined? We certainly would not be fooling the United States government by our silence, because they know of our relationship to them in NATO and they know of the relationship which we have built up with them under NATO in respect of continental defence. I hope that silence in this matter would not be fooling any potential enemy, because if it did that it would be had.

However, it might possibly fool our own people. Silence might be misinterpreted in this country with unhappy results for which the government would rightly be criticized. I prefer the verdict in this matter of the Daily Telegraph in London to that of my hon. friends opposite. The Daily Telegraph, referring to Canada and the United States, had this to say in an editorial

"The conclusion to be drawn from the interdependence of the two nations in a major war is not, as some of Mr. Pearson's critics have suggested, that the United States can take Canadian support in a circumstance for granted, and therefore may disregard Canadians views. On the contrary it gives the Canadian Government both the right and the duty to warn and to dissuade."

That remains our right and I hope that we will exercise it on appropriate occasions in Washington. It is also our duty and I hope that we will discharge it on appropriate occasions. It seems to me that the moral of this position is that if all these dangers surround us, little wars with their obligations, or big wars with all their catastrophes, if we are surrounded by these dangers, then the moral is to do everything we possibly can to stop any war before it starts.

I am sorry that the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan is not in his seat tonight, but I know he has good reason for not being here. I would prefer to refer to his speech in his presence, but I should like to quote what he said, as reported on page 2356 of Hansard:

"But I wish to suggest this, that the Canadian people want our Government to state forthrightly and without equivocation that we will do everything we possibly can do to ensure that Canada's influence and Canada's policy, especially in its relations with the United States, will be directed toward the avoidance of conflict, political and economic."