

*Supply—External Affairs*

ternational affairs are not to be based on saying that we will treat one quarter of the human race as a pariah until they are able to show us that they can threaten us with destruction in the same way as we have threatened them. I suggest it is a matter of deep regret that Canada has not before this shown the wisdom to go perhaps a little ahead of some of her allies and neighbours.

I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, what the government is afraid of in its hesitation in this matter. Is it afraid of the Canadian people? Canadian public opinion, according to all the polls I have seen, has increasingly supported this idea. When the party of which I am proud to say I am a member was in favour of the recognition of the People's Republic of China a good many years ago we were sometimes denounced by people who did not understand the basis of our action. Now this view has grown and grown. Recognition of the obvious sanity of it has grown and grown, so we cannot be afraid of public opinion in Canada.

Are we afraid of the views of the United States of America? I know there are strong feelings in the United States on this subject. I realize that during election campaigns is not a good time to state our view on this matter clearly and unequivocally. But I believe that it would be an act of friendship to the United States for Canada to make it absolutely clear that this policy of attempting to exclude from the United Nations the People's Republic of China is dangerous to the interests of the United States, and is indeed based upon a total misapprehension of conditions in the world.

The people of China refer to people in the United States or to the United States government as though they were scarcely human; and vice-versa. This of course is a delusion. The people of China have experienced a revolution, and like others who have experienced revolution in the course of their history they are sometimes violent in their language, and very defensive because of their fear of counter revolution. Yet the actions of the western world have exacerbated and exaggerated hostility which in the case of the People's Republic of China, I would remind the committee, is extremely natural. After all, if we were part of a country that had suffered from the humiliation of centuries of western aggression and imperialism I think we would be a little sensitive and a little difficult to get along with, too. Yes, we must surely end this era of isolation if we are to have peace throughout the world.

[Mr. Brewin.]

The explosion of this bomb only points once more to the fact that the survival of the human race depends on getting rid of the sort of attitude of mind which says that we do not recognize the government of one quarter of the human race; that we exclude these people from the category of human beings because we do not like the type of government they have. Of course we are not fond of the type of government they have. After all, it has happened before during the course of history that great nations have had governments which were aggressive. But in the course of time these revolutionary impulses died down. Surely our policy should be directed to softening the effects of this revolutionary attitude and not directed toward continued isolation.

Mr. Fred Nossal, who I know has had some experience himself in China, wrote an excellent article in the *Globe and Mail* magazine for November 7, during the course of which he said this:

But to keep them—

He is referring to the People's Republic of China.

—isolated from global discussions, to treat them as international lepers, would only make the Chinese more determined than ever to go their own way.

I think that is a very wise statement.

I hope that the Secretary of State for External Affairs will be able to tell us, perhaps during the course of this debate, that at long last the period of equivocation is over and that as far as Canada is concerned we are not a satellite which cannot speak our own mind; that we will speak our own mind; and that our mind is that this great country, albeit a country the government of which we do not approve, must be drawn into the society of nations without further delay.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Oxford referred to another matter which is connected with what I have already said about our relations with the People's Republic of China. He referred to the fact that some students from Queen's University had brought to his attention a resolution they had passed concerning the situation in Viet Nam. I have no doubt that they also called it to the attention of the minister. In this resolution they called to our attention certain pictures of tortures which were taking place in Viet Nam, reminding us in a vivid way of the suffering and the hell to which that country has been subjected by the continuation of war. In their resolution they asked Canada to call upon the human rights commission of the United