

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. McIntosh: I will not be very long, Mr. Speaker, and I should like to thank my colleagues in the house for this courtesy.

The United States is only protecting itself against a form of blackmail from any other country which feels it has a definite system that could not be penetrated by a retaliatory force, or against any nation that might feel by striking the first blow a victory might be secured. The United States is only protecting itself against blackmail. The president himself has said this is the case. The main purpose of the United States Safeguard system is to preserve the credibility of the United States and its capability, which is actually a deterrent. This is what we want.

The Minister of National Defence and the Secretary of State for External Affairs made reference to the conference held by the President of the United States last Friday. Some of the points to which I should like to refer have been mentioned by other hon. members. I think it is of benefit to Canada and the Canadian people that the president of the United States made a statement in respect of protection to Canada. Let me read from the statement he made to show what I mean. The president indicated that there is no way we can adequately defend our cities without an unacceptable loss of lives. He also stated:

The program I am recommending is based on a careful assessment of the developing Soviet and Chinese threats.

He then went on to state:

Each phase of the deployment will be reviewed to insure that we are doing as much as necessary but no more than that required by the threat existing at that time.

The statement then goes on as follows:

● (11:00 p.m.)

Since our deployment is to be closely related to the threat, it is subject to modification as the threat changes, either through negotiations or through unilateral actions by the Soviet Union or communist China.

The program is not provocative. The Soviet retaliatory capability is not affected by our decision. The capability for surprise attack against our strategic forces is reduced. In other words, our program provides an incentive for a responsible Soviet weapons policy and for the avoidance of spiralling U.S. and Soviet strategic arms budgets—

Moreover, I wish to emphasize that in any arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union, the United States will be fully prepared to discuss limitations on defensive as well as offensive weapons systems—

This is why I am recommending a minimum program essential for our security—

Firing of A.B.M. Warheads over Canada

I am announcing a decision which I believe is vital for the security and defence of the United States, and also in the interest of peace throughout the world—

It is a safeguard against any attack by the Chinese communists that we can foresee over the next ten years.

It is a safeguard of our deterrent system, which is increasingly vulnerable due to the advances that have been made by the Soviet Union since the year 1967 when the Sentinel program was first laid out.

It is a safeguard also against any irrational or accidental attack that might occur of less than massive magnitude which might be launched from the Soviet Union—

The only way that I have concluded that we can save lives, which is the primary purpose of our defence system, is to prevent war, and that is why the emphasis of this system is on protecting our deterrent, which is the best preventive for war.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I believe this debate has been unnecessary and, in fact, insulting.

An hon. Member: Then why have you taken part in it?

Mr. McIntosh: Let us not be so ungracious and unmannerly as to criticize the man we hire to protect us. That is the situation today. For various reasons, some good and some bad, Canada cannot hope to adequately defend herself; we must rely on another or others. As this is the case, let us help and not hinder them. It is my hope that the Prime Minister, while in Washington this week end, will assure President Nixon that Canada has made up her mind and agrees to the necessity of the A.B.M. system; that we will do whatever is reasonable to make it as effective as possible.

Mr. Ross Whicher (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all members of the house will be very pleased when I say that I intend to be very brief indeed. The first thing I want to say is that, while I cannot agree completely with the last speaker, in my opinion he hit the nail reasonably well on the head. I congratulate him for bringing this problem to the attention of the house in a way that I consider was most capable.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Whicher: I do not want to walk many miles around the question; I want to go in a direct line. I say that if I have the opportunity to be pro-Chinese, pro-Russian or pro-American, I will be pro-American every time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.