

*The Address—Mr. Rowe*

I understand that many countries have undertaken to accept a specific number of Hungarian refugees. In our own case, how have we agreed to accept Hungarian refugees? When one reads the statement made in Winnipeg on November 16 by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration it is clear that Hungarian refugees would have to pass the rather stringent medical requirements of the Canadian immigration regulations and also satisfy the examining inspectors in Austria that they had a "reasonable prospect" of being able to earn a living in this country. I do not think I need to comment further on the extent of this offer. This is offering nothing, Mr. Speaker, but an explanation of existing immigration regulations applicable to Hungarian people as if nothing had happened. I hope that voices will be raised in this house to urge the government to take a substantial bloc of refugees as our contribution toward the relief of the great sufferings of the Hungarian people in their noble struggle to free their ancient country. Anything less than this would be an insult to the people of Hungary and an embarrassment to people all across this dominion, because people from that country have contributed greatly to the development of this young country of Canada.

Many thousands of these brave people are today flooding Austria, those who are not shot and chopped down by the Russian army along the border, no doubt emphasizing the tragedy in that district. All one has to do is read the papers, and the contents of those papers are too terrible to repeat here. It should be within the knowledge of everyone here.

Austria is pleading with the world to assist her to take care of those people. They have sent out calls to the effect that they cannot take care of any more. Austria is a small country. Canada is a large country and can stand to take many more people. Canada has all too few people. Our whole immigration policy has fallen down in this respect. Surely there is a humanitarian way. We must not hesitate to co-operate with these people and take these refugees. Special regulations should be passed immediately independent of the regular Immigration Act. No country has more room and is more capable of accepting many thousands of these unfortunate people who, with their own relatives, fought such a valiant battle for freedom against cruel and terrible odds. We can do much more for their relief; indeed, Mr. Speaker, we could not have done less than we have to date.

During the centuries history has written of great men dying for great principles. Seldom, however, in the annals of such records has the steadfastness, courage and gallantry of

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the common man been so heroically demonstrated. May I remind the government, no matter how complacent they may feel, that the spirit of this young country is not so dead as to be satisfied with their complacency and reluctance to rise to the ringing challenge for more adequate assistance to these poor people.

It is not my intention to delay this debate by speaking at great length. I do not look upon this as an issue concerning which we can come to parliament and rush in and rush out for the convenience of the government. This is a vital issue which touches the heart of every Canadian. It concerns the lives and hopes of these people and their children and their children yet unborn. I do not look upon this as a political issue, but Canada is disturbed, Canada is alarmed and Canada is shocked at the vacillation and complacency of this government in relation to this as well as many other matters. It is useless to hide behind the great shield of the United Nations. The United Nations is no stronger than the countries it embraces. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Canada has failed dismally in its representation at the United Nations.

I would be ashamed to stand in this house if in the United Nations I had seen the United States voting as they did to drive Britain and France out of the Mediterranean area. Britain and France did agree they would vacate the area when there was an adequate police force, but to turn around now and tell them to get out and leave the area on which their lifeline depends represents a strange attitude. That is not good enough for the senior member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move on behalf of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green):

That the following be added to the address:

That this house regrets that Your Excellency's advisers

(1) have followed a course of gratuitous condemnation of the action of the United Kingdom and France which was designed to prevent a major war in the Suez area;

(2) have meekly followed the unrealistic policies of the United States of America and have thereby encouraged a truculent and defiant attitude on the part of the Egyptian dictator;

(3) have placed Canada in the humiliating position of accepting dictation from President Nasser;

(4) have failed to take swift and adequate action to extend refuge to the patriots of Hungary and other lands under the cruel Russian yoke.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall I dispense with the reading of the motion that has just been read and have it considered as being proposed from the chair?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.