

taken place in Canada during that time as to whether Canada should accept nuclear arms. The Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, who was the Leader of the Opposition at the time, had a miraculous conversion. I believe that his speech was given in Scarborough, Ontario, which will be familiar to the mover of the resolution.

● (1750)

One night Mr. Pearson decided, after some 20 years of being opposed to nuclear weapons, even winning a Nobel prize for his peace activities, to suddenly be converted to nuclear weaponry for Canadians and the Canadian Forces within Canada. Then followed two days of very strong debate on the resolution which was introduced on February 4, 1963. Hon. Members interested in this subject would find it a fascinating two days of debate. The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan reminded me of some of the speakers whose speeches appeared in *Hansard* at that time. Mr. Pearson, who I believe was really quite sincerely dedicated to peace, was trying to explain why he was going to vote out the Diefenbaker Government which was insisting on not accepting nuclear weapons in Canada, namely the warheads for the Bomarc missile of that day. The debate went on with Mr. Pearson being rather devious about the motion and he was severely criticized by the Government side of the House for not being more specific about his motion. It was a supply motion. It was interesting to read the contributions made by Mr. David Lewis and Tommy Douglas who spoke for the NDP in that debate indicating that while they also greatly loved peace, they were going to vote for the Party which was going to bring nuclear arms to Canada.

Mr. Benjamin: He never said that!

Mr. McKinnon: So the only Party in the House which was opposed to nuclear arms in Canada was the Conservatives, and the New Democratic Party joined with the Liberals to vote it out of office, knowing full well that Mr. Pearson was going to bring in the nuclear warheads for the Bomarc missile. The Government was defeated in a subsequent election. The Liberals formed the next Government and allowed nuclear warheads into Canada, and they are still here today.

Mr. Benjamin: Point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin).

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I am sure my good friend, the Hon. Member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon) would not want to mislead the House or misconstrue the record knowingly or unknowingly. I am sure he would want to include in his remarks that that was a vote of non-confidence in the Government which, he will agree, any opposition party would vote for. It was not a vote in support of nuclear weapons for Canada as advocated by Mr. Pearson. Would the Hon. Member be prepared to complete the record?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please. That is not a point of order. It is just a point of debate.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, of course it is not a point of order. The Hon. Member for Regina West has not read the debate, obviously, and forgets completely that the New Democratic Party, being an opposition party, for 19 successive times in a row in 1973 and 1974 did not vote the Government out of office when it had the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Benjamin: We did so!

Mr. McKinnon: So he is just talking a lot of nonsense to support an unsupportable case.

Mr. Benjamin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. That is clearly incorrect. It is not true. It was in 1974 we voted the Liberals out of office.

Mr. Young: We did it again in 1979.

Mr. Benjamin: The Tories!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please. The Hon. Member for Regina West may have a difference of opinion. It is not a point of order.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, in the interests of accuracy—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): The Hon. Member for Victoria.

Mr. Benjamin: —it was the NDP who voted the Liberals out of office in 1974.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please.

Mr. Benjamin: I was here even if he was not.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please. The Hon. Member for Victoria.

Mr. McKinnon: There is always a smidgen of truth in what the hon. gentleman from Regina West says. His Party supported the Conservatives after failing to support us in 19 successive votes of non-confidence in the Liberal Government. After voting with the Government 19 times, they eventually saw the light and voted with us in 1974, at long last, having missed all those other chances. It is always interesting to hear these inane comments and unknowledgeable questions from the Hon. Member for Regina West, but time is precious to those of us who have something to say, and I would like to press on. The last paragraph of the resolution reads:

That, the Government should consider the advisability of encouraging cities, provinces and states throughout the world to undertake similar action.

Presumably that is a nuclear arms free zone action. However, I failed to notice in his remarks any reference to the Warsaw Pact countries which are states of the world. I wonder whether he intended to encourage them to undertake similar action and just how he intends to encourage them to do so. Mr. James Stark, the head of Dismantle, gave evidence on the referendum in front of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence in, I believe, 1982. I would like to read an excerpt from the committee report: