

External Affairs
AFTER RECESS

friends. After all, they have ruled my fellow countrymen for some generations and we have not done too badly under their rule.

But I wish to say, as I have so often said in the past during debates of this kind, that I believe the most potent weapon we could use in defeating totalitarianism, whether of the fascist or communist variety, is the weapon of technical and economic aid. I believe we can do more through these channels to raise the standard of living in many countries than we have done in the past. The hon. member for Prince Albert recognized this afternoon that poverty provides the seed-bed for communism, as it did for fascism between the two wars when fascism gained control in Italy and nazism gained control in Germany. They gained control in these two countries largely because of the mass unemployment, and the suffering and poverty which existed in these countries. History can repeat itself in many parts of the world, and in these countries again, not so much in Germany now, but particularly in Italy. And it can certainly repeat itself in the Far East.

I believe more can be done through the United Nations organizations in giving technical aid. I would like to see our appropriation much greater than it is at present. After all, the total appropriation for the United Nations technical aid is less than the appropriation we make under the Colombo plan. That is not a reflection on the United Nations, but I believe we are not appropriating enough even under the Colombo plan to do the kind of job we are doing.

I have said this so often that I hesitate to repeat it. But in this battle for the minds of men it is vital that human welfare and human freedom should be safeguarded, for in this battle the hydrogen and atomic bomb will not settle the matter, nor will it be settled on the battlefields of the world by armies with tanks. It will be settled ultimately to the extent that we can bring not only Christian principles to bear, but the principles of all great religions, the principle that this is a great human brotherhood and that it is our duty to raise the standard of living and to assist the welfare of mankind wherever mankind may be.

Mr. Low: Mr. Speaker, do you wish to call it six o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Is it agreed that we call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, on January 29 I spoke at some length in the external affairs debate that was launched by the minister on that date. I then gave a fairly full statement of our position with regard to the important issues confronting Canada and the free world. Consequently I would not feel that it would be necessary for me to speak at any length tonight. Nor do I propose to repeat the things which I said on that earlier occasion. There are, however, some matters that have been raised by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) today, one by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and some by the leader of the C.C.F. with which I should like to deal briefly.

I always hesitate, Mr. Speaker, to speak on some of the complex international problems because most of us really know little about them except, of course, what we read in the papers and magazines; and if we followed them too closely I suppose we would find ourselves in the same kind of trouble as that in which the Prime Minister found himself, and more often. I look upon the views that we read in the papers only as the expressions of opinions of men. They are not supposed to be facts. One of the best evidences in the world that they are not facts is that I find them to be so much at variance with one another; and because they are at variance it is dreadfully hard to get at the truth. The situation is so confused and so full of emotional hysteria that one is apt to find himself blown this way or that by the winds of controversial doctrine into worse confusion if he is not on his toes.

We ordinary members of the house have not much fundamental and reliable information upon which to base judgment about some of the complicated phases of world affairs. We can hardly be expected to have those facts until we are given a chance to question the minister and his officials from the external affairs department who are called before us in the external affairs committee. That is why I welcome the reference of the departmental estimates to the committee. In that committee we have a chance to get some facts, explanations and expert opinions to go on. I only wish we could have these debates after we have finished with that committee. However, on an occasion like this when it was necessary to create an occasion on which could be made an important statement like the one made by the Prime Minister today, I cannot blame anyone for bringing on the debate.