

*External Affairs*

throughout the length and breadth of this country have followed with interest the two days debate we have had in this house. On this occasion I should like to voice a word of thanks to the Prime Minister for having suggested that this debate be extended to include today. I should also like to congratulate the Secretary of State for External Affairs on his concise, clear state of the nation address which he gave in opening this debate. It did not contain technical detail or terms, but was presented in such a manner that any average Canadian could understand.

Some people in this house, and outside too, claim that they are experts on external affairs. Some are. Some pretend to be experts. But I think most of us are just common Joe's who have ordinary common sense, and I think most Canadians are in that category. I think Canadians are a most enlightened race. They are watching today everything said inside and outside this house. They watch with critical interest everything their government does. They praise it, they censure it and they question it.

Permit me to spell out some of the feelings and opinions of the average Canadian, whether he comes from original stock or whether he emigrated to this country from some other land. I feel both have the same feeling for Canada, the same loyalty for Canada and the same interest in the independence and sovereignty of Canada.

We Canadians have a great deal to be disturbed about, but we have also a great deal to be proud and happy about. We are a sovereign state and are very jealous of our sovereignty and independence. We are becoming a proud race, probably too proud. We are proud of our heritage and proud of our diversified racial origin. We are proud of the words contained in the speech from the throne, that "our attachment to the crown is a great unifying force." We are proud of our status in the British commonwealth of nations. We are proud of our standing in NATO. We are proud of our prestige in the United Nations.

The reasons for our prestige in the world and in the United Nations were concisely summarized by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) when he addressed the Vancouver board of trade on January 4, 1960. He gave three reasons and I would like to quote them:

1. No one fears us because we have no territorial ambitions.

That is why people trust us.

2. No one harbours resentment towards us since we never held sovereign control of an alien people.

We have never coveted other people's lands.

3. No one suspects us of coveting his natural resources as we are known to have plenty of our own.

Is there any other nation on earth that can boast these qualifications? The Secretary of State for External Affairs in his modesty omitted to say that our prestige in the United Nations is in some measure due to his statesmanlike leadership which he gave to the Canadian delegation. We saw this man in action. He made friends for Canada, and although he did not go around with a chip on his shoulder, he said that, "nobody was going to twist our arm." He did not hesitate to take the initiative when it was necessary, and Canada's good name stood out at the forefront of the policies which were debated in the United Nations.

I would be unfair if I omitted to mention the wonderful and capable leadership given to our delegation at the United Nations assembly by the minister's secretary, the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt). He was our guiding light. The manner in which he carried on public relations with other races, whether they were black, yellow or white, was a treat to see, and we are as proud of him as we are of our minister.

Until recent years Canadians were very thankful for their geographical position. To the south of us our good neighbour did not covet our land or our wealth and all along the thousands of miles of our boundary never a shot was fired, never an armed soldier appeared nor a fortress built. We felt perfectly safe. To the north we likewise felt that our sovereignty extended to the north pole, but this is being questioned today. We felt that the land of ice and snow was sufficient protection against any foe. Who would covet, and if he dared, who would survive the land of ice and snow? This happy state of mind was with us until a few years ago, until man became or tried to become master of outer space, and all of us now found ourselves in danger. We found we were not as safe from the north as we thought we were.

Before I proceed may I be permitted to go back into recent history just for a few moments. During the last 50 years humanity has fought two world wars. During that same period of time humanity has made two efforts to outlaw war, has made two efforts to establish some agency that would settle differences between peoples by collective means. As hon. members know, the league of nations was the first effort. The league of nations tried to outlaw war. It redrew the map of Europe. It settled boundary disputes. Democracy felt it was safe; peace was going to reign for ever.