

Supply—External Affairs

I am unable to say whether they are the passages which the right hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) had in mind in the observations which he made. It may well be it was some other reference which my hon. friend made that the Minister of Justice had in his thoughts at the time. However, were the minister here to-day he would, I am sure, be the first to accept my hon. friend's statement that in the course of the debate referred to he had no intention of conveying the impression which apparently the Minister of Justice gained at the time. As my hon. friend knows, the Minister of Justice is absent to-day owing to the fact that he is being honoured by McGill university with the degree of doctor of laws, *honoris causa*. He will, I am sure, be quick to take notice of what my hon. friend, the member for St. Lawrence-St. George, has said.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Departmental administration, \$184,575.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): Mr. Chairman, on Tuesday last the house listened with rapt attention to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) explaining and defending Canada's foreign policy. It was my intention to say something on that occasion, but time did not permit. There are many points in the Prime Minister's speech and there are many phases of Canada's international relations in connection with which I should like to say something, but at this time I am going to confine my remarks to one aspect of our foreign policy which seems to me to transcend all other aspects, even at this time when we are beset on all sides with questions of very great import. I refer to our policy with regard to Spain. To me our policy in connection with the Spanish situation has been and is devoid of every semblance of equity, justice, fairness or the application of international law. What is true of Canada's policy in respect to Spain is equally true of the policies of those nations which took part in the world's greatest international farce, the non-intervention committee. However, it is with Canada's policy that I am concerned.

To my mind a change of policy on the part of the democratic nations of the world towards Spain is absolutely essential even to a beginning of a settlement of the world's

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

troubles on the basis of international law and international equity and justice. All our prating about peace, all our boasted love for democracy, all our detestation of dictatorships, is just so much piffle unless we right-about face in our attitude towards Spain. To me the Spanish situation is fundamental. The policy of the nations of the world towards war-torn Spain is immoral to say the least. It constitutes a canker that is eating at the heart of all that is left of world democracy. It cannot be defended on any basis whatsoever except that of cowardice and the saving of our own skins at the expense of the blood of the Spanish people.

I wish to pass very quickly over the events in Spain from February, 1936, to the present time. In the Spanish elections in February, 1936, what is generally called a Popular Front government was elected. This government was elected according to the laws and customs prevailing in Spain at that time. It was elected just as legally as the government of this country, as the government of Great Britain or France, or the government of any other country where government is elected by the vote of the people. After the elections the new premier, Senor Azana, outlined the policy of his government in the following words:

We are not out to persecute, but to apply the constitution and the laws of the land in a spirit of liberality and liberty of conscience. We are persecuting nobody—neither Roman Catholics, Protestants nor Moslems. The people are eager to take part themselves in the work of national reform and progress. Everybody is interested and anxious to help. We are at the beginning of a time of great advance in many directions—cultural, educational, economic, political, spiritual and material.

I am sure that these are sentiments as fine as those uttered by our Prime Minister in October, 1935. But trouble soon developed. A well prepared rebellion broke out on July 18 of that same year. A few days afterwards, on July 25, the first violation, in my opinion, of international law took place. The French government, despite the fact that the "Frente Popular" was the legal government in Spain and that the French government had an agreement to supply the Spanish government with war materials, decided to prohibit the export of war materials to Spain. The general impression, an impression amounting to a conviction, was that Great Britain brought pressure on France which had something to do with her decision not to fulfil her obligations to Spain. On August 2, a week later, the French government addressed an appeal to the principal governments of Europe to organize for the purpose of preventing inter-