

present Prime Minister, and the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, whose contributions to parliament and the country made him a worthy recipient of the honour and brought honour to Canada at the same time.

That conference was a clearing house of consultation and of wisdom. It was a catalyst of differences. It was joined in unity and objectives in the maintenance of freedom. Let us not forget that in the world of today there can be no international rights for Canada unless we recognize three things: first, our own country and its aims and purposes; second, our membership within the commonwealth of nations which makes us possess that prestige to which the Right Hon. Vincent Massey made reference when he spoke of the contribution that that membership makes to Canada in the world of today; finally, our membership in NATO. Sir, our aim and our purpose are to maintain and preserve peace. To that end we are dedicated.

The information I have asked for must not be concealed for the reason that it might hurt the feelings of Canadians in that all is not as well as the propaganda agencies would have us believe when it comes to our defence against the potential danger of the H-bomb and atomic warfare. Let us see the picture; let Canada know it; and, if the Canadian people realize the situation, apathy will give place to determination and the leadership of civil defence by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) will receive the inspiration that is necessary today, for with the exception of three or four of our cities few seem to realize the awful danger in which we stand and the necessity of urgency now in preserving ourselves through the instrumentality of civil defence and through the maintenance and assurance of our armaments and our armed forces.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, I hope that with respect to some of the remarks I am going to make this afternoon I shall not be accused of having an anti-American bias. I have never had bias against our good neighbour to the south. I harbour no ill feelings towards the people of that country, but this afternoon I am going to criticize some of the policies being pursued by the United States government in international affairs. I am very glad indeed that in his concluding remarks the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) paid tribute to our association with the commonwealth of nations. As I listened to him this afternoon I thought for a while that I was listening to one of the strongest pleas I have heard in the house at any time for acceptance of American policy almost without question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No suggestion of that.

Mr. Coldwell: I also want to say to the minister that I thought his speech was not as good a speech as the one he made earlier in the session. I thought it was not as clear or as concise, and it was longer. I sometimes think that a speech cannot be judged by its length. I have had the pleasure of sitting in the gallery of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom, the mother of parliaments, and I have heard questions as important as the ones we are discussing this afternoon discussed and concluded by the two principal speakers within the space of one hour for both of them. It seems to me we could learn something from the experience of the parliament of the United Kingdom in that respect.

Mr. Pearson: And have a debate every few weeks.

Mr. Coldwell: I was very happy that this afternoon the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) discussed and told us something about the situation in Indo-China, Korea and so on. But as I listened to him this afternoon I decided I should probably confine my remarks to about three important matters which I think have been disturbing the people of Canada and the world in the past few weeks. The first of these of course is the statements that have been made in connection with the Chinese offshore islands and the island of Formosa, and the confusion which was caused after the speech made by the minister in Toronto when various interpretations were placed upon it. I think that the statements of the secretary of state of the United States, Mr. Dulles, when he was here underline rather than minimize the dangers of the present situation and the policies being pursued at this time by the United States.

Then, of course, the second matter of great concern to our country and the world at the present time is the series of experimental explosions that are being carried on in the United States and in Russia to ascertain the power in the use of nuclear weapons. Let us not forget that the same type of experiment is being undertaken in Russia. We do not know with what power and we do not know with what success, but we do know that they are now experimenting with the hydrogen bomb and the atom bomb in the same way as our great neighbour to the south. We are told by atomic scientists, as outstanding as those who deny the truth of the charges that these scientists make, that these explosions may endanger the future welfare of mankind, indeed, the future continuance on the earth of mankind. It seems to me we must pay some attention as a country to these