

*Supply—External Affairs*

and the hon. member for Fort William, I wish to congratulate those two hon. gentlemen on the very helpful and informative speeches they have just made which I am sure will increase the knowledge of hon. members of Latin American affairs. I think traditionally Canadians have looked east and west rather than south, and when they have looked south, many times they have not looked further south than the United States of America. I hope other hon. members will have opportunities to travel in South America and that there will be other occasions for members of the House of Commons to build up relationships and friendships among themselves and people in that continent who are in positions of responsibility.

The first thing I wish to say tonight, Mr. Chairman, is to urge the government to do everything it can to stop further nuclear testing. I must say that tonight my mind is a long way from here and from South America; rather it is in that area of the world where four bombs have been dropped recently and from which area at this very time radioactive dust is drifting to other parts of the world. No matter where that dust settles it can do nothing but harm. I urge the government to do everything it can to stop those tests above the ground, under the ground, or in the laboratory.

The press secretary to the President of the United States of America, apparently speaking for the administration, said that new United States tests were necessary because, as he put it, important advances can be made by further scientific developments. Since the United States already has a stockpile of atomic weapons which it said last week was wholly adequate for the defence of the free world, I cannot see that further testing will do anything but speed up the tempo of the arms race.

There may be many factors in this most complex problem which are unknown to me, Mr. Chairman. I heard the Leader of the Opposition on television the other night. He made his comments in this regard. He said that there might be things of which he had no personal knowledge and therefore, as I recollect his remarks, he did not want to make a dogmatic statement; but I say that the most important thing for this parliament to consider tonight is the steps that our government can take to put an end to those explosions at the earliest possible moment.

I wish to take part in this debate for three other reasons. The first is that I wish to express my appreciation of the services and leadership which have been given recently

[Mr. Badanai.]

by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. All of us know of the intense interest which the present Prime Minister has shown in international affairs throughout his public career. He attended the founding conference of the United Nations, and at every session of parliament since that time he has put forward constructive proposals for preventing war and for creating conditions which would help to give the better life to people in other countries who are oppressed or who are suffering because of being without proper food, adequate housing, clothing or educational opportunities.

I thought I had heard the Prime Minister of Canada in his finest hour on September 26, 1960, when he spoke at the United Nations. He made a speech in the United Nations assembly which was unanimously accepted as a brilliant answer to the false accusations of Mr. Khrushchev which had been made the week before. But on September 1, 1961, he made a statement before the Canadian Bar Association which I think the world greatly needed and which surpassed all previous speeches he has made on international affairs. I am sure this speech will have an effect on the course of events.

Some of our critics say that Canada should take the lead among the middle powers. I say that with that speech in Winnipeg the Prime Minister will give the lead to the great powers. On behalf of the citizens of York Centre I wish to express my gratitude to him.

Since parliament last debated foreign affairs the Secretary of State for External Affairs has spoken for Canada on many international problems. These days some persons are so appalled by the immensity of these problems that they think only of the gloomy side of things and talk in generalities. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is not one of those. He has won for himself at NATO, at the United Nations and at Geneva the reputation of being an optimist, but an optimist who believes that optimism can only be sustained if you work hard day by day to find solutions to the problems at hand. This has been the policy followed by our country on disarmament.

Canada must continue to advocate means of bringing about negotiations in the face of the most discouraging conditions. We must attempt again and again to devise means of bringing about negotiations and if the means that are proposed fail we must try again. If members of this parliament advocated any other policy or sought to disparage—and this has been done from time to time—the conscientious efforts made by our foreign minister in this regard how could they explain themselves to their constituents or to their children