

*Supply—External Affairs*

It therefore opposes Canada's troops being supplied with such weapons at home or abroad. At present, except for those nations which have independently developed atomic capacity, neither NATO itself nor its members individually possess or control nuclear warheads. Should they do so, Canada must make it clear that it cannot remain in the alliance. To relieve tensions, Canada should press for a demilitarized zone in central Europe and for the simultaneous disbandment of the Warsaw and NATO pacts.

I think there would be very little disagreement on that point. It is something for which we should stride more assiduously than we have in the past.

**Mr. Deschatelets:** Mr. Chairman, would my hon. friend permit a question?

**Mr. Herridge:** Surely.

**Mr. Deschatelets:** Would the hon. gentleman tell the committee if a vote was taken on this proposal and, if so, what was the division?

**Mr. Herridge:** Well, it was a matter of great interest but I was not able to opine the count on either side.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Seven hundred to 800, I think.

**An hon. Member:** There were not that many people there.

**Mr. Herridge:** The hon. member for Essex East is better informed than members of the group who were present at the convention.

**Mr. Drysdale:** That would not be difficult.

**Mr. Herridge:** For the information of the committee there were approximately 1800 delegates present. I have never seen so many people remain seated and attentive as that group during the course of five very warm, humid and trying Ottawa days.

**An hon. Member:** They were trying, all right.

**Mr. Herridge:** Ours is a democratic movement. Every opportunity was provided for discussion. There was no division as to purpose or principle. Differences of opinion were expressed as to timing, interpretation, details and so on but these were all resolved at the convention.

**Mr. Pearson:** Such as in resolutions from the floor.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Which group do you belong to?

**Mr. Herridge:** A whisper from my left inquired as to what group I belong to. I was elected as a member of parliament representing the C.C.F. party. I am a C.C.F. member of parliament but at the same time a member

[Mr. Herridge.]

of the national council of the New Democratic party. Does that explain the situation?

**Mr. Hellyer:** Has there been any change in your views?

**Mr. Herridge:** You see, we have nothing to hide. We do not have to do these things in hotel rooms. We conduct our affairs in the open. We are like the British Labour party. We have wide differences of opinion but it is amazing how we can close ranks when we have to face a common enemy.

**An hon. Member:** Where is the British Labour party now?

**Mr. Herridge:** We strongly oppose nuclear weapons of any type in Canada. In that respect the official opposition and members of this group are in agreement.

I was interested in the minister's reference to the commonwealth. I have a great affection for the commonwealth and great respect for the part it can play in the days ahead. I know that the minister shares my view in that respect. The commonwealth is increasing in membership as a result of more and more native states obtaining self-governing status and increasing in influence. We believe that Canada should play a stronger role in the commonwealth. Canada should do something along the line of what is being done by Mr. Nehru who, according to the press, is in Moscow, appealing to Premier Khrushchev with respect to the present dangerous world situation.

We believe Canada should take a stronger lead within the commonwealth and should promote peaceful policies at the present time. We should take a stronger and more independent stand but one that is co-operative in the sense that even if we disagree with our friends to the south, or others, we have the same purpose, the protection of freedom and the maintenance of peace.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired. Does the committee give unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Herridge:** I appreciate this courtesy. I am practically finished. I trust there will be an opportunity for another hon. member of our group to deal with the matters with which I may not have time to deal. I deeply appreciate the rapt attention which the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Pugh) is according my remarks. He has taken a seat close to me in order to listen to my remarks and I consider that a compliment.

We agree with the minister that the United Nations is the hope of mankind. We support the government in everything it undertakes to strengthen the influence, prestige and work