

Supply—External Affairs

I would like to leave the subject of foreign aid to one of my colleagues who will make some remarks in this connection later in the day. Finally, Mr. Chairman, I make one suggestion to the minister and I do hope he will take it seriously, because great confusion must exist in this respect in countries which are close friends of Canada and want to help us. I refer to the great confusion of mind that must take place with senior officials and ministers of foreign governments when they wish to bestow honours on Canadians. I was wondering whether the minister would send a directive to our embassies abroad so they could tell foreign governments which are friendly to this country which Canadians would be eligible to receive decorations from abroad and which would not. For instance, I would refer to the fact that the premier of the province of Quebec recently received the Grand Cross of the Order of the Phoenix, or some such decoration, from His Majesty the King of Greece. This is quite acceptable and I am not suggesting that Hon. Mr. Lesage should not be so honoured; as a matter of fact, I favour it. But it seems strange to me that a Canadian who is a British subject and has been given an award by Her Majesty the Queen is not allowed to accept it without giving up his Canadian citizenship. The government's policy seems to be that there is one rule for the elite, namely the Liberals, and another for everybody else. I wish some clarification could be made in this regard, not only at home but abroad, so that when friendly foreign governments wish to bestow honours on Canadians they will know who can accept them and who cannot. They would know they can bestow them on certain Canadians, members of the government party or their friends, and not others. I hope the minister will make this clear to our friends abroad.

Mr. Baldwin: They need them more than we do.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Chairman, I would like the remarks that I wish to make for the New Democratic party in this debate to be made in the spirit of a statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the special committee on defence in July of 1963. He said then that the foreign and defence policies of Canada were inseparable. He also went on to say that in the nuclear age all states must have but a single objective in their foreign and defence policies, namely the preservation of peace. I want to test the international policies of this country on the basis

of whether we are making or are not making a maximum contribution to the preservation of peace. As the late President Kennedy put it, peace is the rational end of rational men.

I must say that I found a huge and glaring gap in the remarks made to us this afternoon by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. After referring, almost in passing, to the explosion of a nuclear bomb by the forces of the Chinese people's republic, he then said absolutely nothing at all about a subject—at least, I did not hear him say anything—which surely is one of immense importance to the future preservation of peace. I refer to the ending of the diplomatic and international isolation of the People's Republic of China. I hope the Secretary of State for External Affairs will not think I am being unkind when I say that Canadian policy has indeed been consistent in this field—it has been consistent in its ambiguity and procrastination. The minister himself has made many enlightened statements in regard to this matter. He has pointed out how futile was the attempt to isolate the Soviet republics in the period before the last war. He has pointed out that discussion of disarmament is rendered futile by the absence of a government which represents one quarter of the population of the world.

The Prime Minister himself has said that the continued diplomatic isolation of communist countries is not the policy of Canada. Yet despite this we find in the words of the minister no statement whatever in regard to this matter. As the assembly of the United Nations is about to meet and the relations of the rest of the world with the People's Republic of China are bound to be in issue, I think this house is entitled to hear from the Secretary of State for External Affairs what is the view of Canada in this regard. Nearly a year ago, on November 28, 1963, he said this—I am not sure whether it was in parliament but I know he will remember the occasion:

We must carefully consider whether the degree of isolation which now surrounds communist China is healthy, whether it promotes international peace or tends to intensify the threat to it.

That was said a year ago. I know there are matters of timing involved in actions in this regard, but I suggest it is a tragedy that the western world has waited and now says to China: "We will admit you to the society of nations, now that you have exploded a nuclear device". It seems to me that to say that China can come into the club, now that they have developed this what I would call phony prestige involved in detonating a nuclear device, is very regrettable. Surely in-