

*Lack of Debate on Foreign Affairs*

of the St. Jean Baptiste Society in Trois Rivières that week. In his address the gentleman stated that the Province of Quebec should separate from Canada, and he pointed out the advantages which might be served that Province by so doing. It seems that this particular member of the French National Assembly is Secretary of the French National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs and is very clearly a spokesman for the Government of France. It is certainly the strangest kind of activity indeed for a member of the French National Assembly, holding a quasi executive position, being clearly a supporter of the present Government of France who comes to this country and makes such suggestions. I hope the Prime Minister has had an opportunity to investigate this matter and can tell us what exactly went on and whether any protest was made to the Government of France. It was said that this was done in an unofficial capacity; but I would suggest that in the case of a person holding a position like this in any country it cannot be interpreted by any reasonable person as being an unofficial act. We must accept that this person must at least have had the tacit approval of the government of the country from whence he came.

Another question which has been discussed repeatedly on orders of the day concerns the so-called treaty between the Province of Quebec and the Government of France, and the relationship of the federal Government thereto. This, of course, is a matter of dispute and we should have some clarification of the question. It is of great interest owing to certain recent events in the Province of Quebec which are causing widespread anxiety and concern all over Canada. The Republic of France is clearly involved in this question of treaty making. While I realize that on Orders of the Day the Prime Minister went into the matter in some detail, I do hope that he or the Secretary of State for External Affairs will give a clear step by step illustration of what actually took place so there can be no doubt about it and no misunderstanding.

The latest event concerns a matter which may be quite unrelated, though one cannot help but wonder whether it is unrelated in view of the difficulties, one might say, between the three governments of the Republic of France, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Province of Quebec. A very strange event occurred at the end of last week in connection with the arrival of the Secretary of State for External Affairs

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

in Paris. I realize that last Friday, when the Prime Minister was asked a question in this regard, he stated that he had been informed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that all was well, that it was just a technical matter and everyone was happy. But that was not the view expressed by Mr. Charles King, who by no stretch of the imagination can be regarded as an opponent of the present Government. He had a lengthy article in the *Ottawa Citizen* last Friday afternoon describing the event. Apparently he was there, Mr. Speaker, and he describes the event as a clear snub. The Secretary of State for External Affairs had to ride along with the baggage across the airport. Those who have been to this airport know that it is a large airport, and I am sure the ride would not have been a comfortable one, let alone a very dignified one. Therefore one wonders exactly what is going on between the Government of France and the federal Government of Canada. Is there some trouble between the federal Government and the Government of France? If so, we should like to know about it. A number of these incidents which have occurred one after the other have been unusual occurrences. I am not attempting to make large mountains out of small molehills, but these occurrences, small as they may be, do seem to occur at regular intervals and are evidence which indicates that certainly the two Governments are perhaps not on the best of terms. I hope that the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs when he returns will give the House a complete and full explanation of this matter.

• (4:30 p.m.)

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I arrive at the matter of the Organization of American States, which is a particularly pertinent subject in view of events in the Caribbean at this time. I think that some hon. Members in all parties in the House have at one time or another expressed the view that Canada should join that organization. The former Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Green, was very interested in this question, and we have heard the present Secretary of State for External Affairs say that he thinks it would be a good idea if we joined. Fortunately, nothing has been done in this regard. Had something been done I think Canada's position under the present circumstances in relation to the Dominican Republic would have been a difficult one indeed. No matter what we might then do we would make