

External Affairs

with and indeed as small as the Prime Minister's opening words in this debate, to be found at page 987 of *Hansard* from which I quote:

I appreciated the opening words of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) when he expressed his good wishes to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green). Then after a few preliminary remarks there was for some reason the same frustration that seems to gnaw at the heart of the Leader of the Opposition. It has taken possession of it even in international affairs. It is a peculiar situation. The Leader of the Opposition is a man who has had wide experience. But as soon as he comes to discuss the problems of our country in any way he seems to lose that sense of equilibrium and balance that once characterized him when in another position.

This type of stuff—stuff, not words—which appears much too frequently under the Prime Minister's name in *Hansard* is completely unworthy of the Prime Minister of Canada and is well below his intellectual capacity. If it is not frustration, then it is fear and uncertainty that forces the Prime Minister to utter nonsense such as this and which has as much value as have the other off the cuff statements which the Prime Minister has been known to make in the past two or three years.

Then the Prime Minister has accused the Leader of the Opposition and the members of the opposition of having weakened confidence in Canada and having jeopardized Canada's prestige abroad. Does the Prime Minister really think that Canadians can have confidence when they are made to see not, only that there is no cabinet solidarity in the government but that one of the most conscientious, sincere and hard-working ministers of the crown is needlessly repudiated and unjustifiably humiliated? Does the Prime Minister think he is helping the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Mr. Green: I do not feel very humiliated.

Mr. Cardin: I can understand the minister and I will not make any comment. But does the Prime Minister really think that, by repudiating him, he is helping his colleague in any way to maintain the prestige and the authority necessary to make a contribution to the fullest extent of the minister's ability in a collective effort to achieve an efficient disarmament program and to work toward world peace? Does the Prime Minister believe that the nations of the world will be in a position to rely on Canada's policies when, because of the Prime Minister's actions, they can justifiably feel that in fact Canada has two opposing voices when it deals with international problems?

Of course, it is these inexplicable blunders which really undermine confidence in Canada and jeopardize Canada's prestige abroad.

[Mr. Cardin.]

Surely the Prime Minister cannot but recognize that he alone is responsible for that situation. Surely he cannot accuse us of making a personal attack against him and of undermining confidence in Canada abroad because we are pointing out to the country and to this house things that are self-evident.

There has been a great change in the attitude of the government over the past three years, and not for the better. Shadows are now being taken for substance, expedients are taken for experience and political propaganda reigns supreme, with the result that there has been a marked deterioration of the dignity and decorum that was traditionally known in this house. I may tell the Prime Minister that at times recently I have distinctly felt that I was sitting in the legislature of the province of Quebec under a Union Nationale government. Just as in this session we have had two throne speeches, a dull and empty one and a spectacular one given by the Prime Minister, with all the accompanying publicity and fanfare, after the Leader of the Opposition had spoken. So in this debate we have had two statements on foreign affairs, one a dull and empty one given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and then a spectacular one, with all the accompanying publicity and fanfare, given by the Prime Minister after the Leader of the Opposition had spoken and after the opposition spokesman on external affairs had spoken. Mr. Speaker, the question I should like to ask of the government is very simple and it is this: Why?

Mr. Nicholas Mandziuk (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, it is hardly worth my while to make any reference to the address we have just heard. The hon. member has lectured the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) on the question of whom he should consult. He has lectured him as to how he should consult his cabinet and should consult that great expert the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson). In the course of my address I hope to make reference to some of the wonderful blasts made by this so-called expert. The hon. member apparently is grooming himself for the next election. His address had no relationship whatsoever to our external affairs. He likewise lectured the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green). I wish to assure the hon. member and other hon. members of this house that Canada is concerned not with these silly political blasts but with her status in the world and with the question of where we stand today.

I know that we in this house have been interested in this debate, but interest in it has not been confined to us. I think all Canadians