

*External Affairs*

But the Leader of the Opposition, as reported at page 979 of *Hansard*, had this to say:

I do not think there is anything humiliating or wrong—indeed I think there is a great deal to be admired—in the role of middleman or honest broker.

Then he went on to quote from Sir Winston Churchill.

**Mr. Pearson:** Read it.

**Mr. Green:** I am going to read it. The Leader of the Opposition said this:

Once when he spoke in this house he lauded the contribution that Canada made to international relations. I forget the words he used but I think on that occasion he called Canada a link pin and on another occasion he called it a link. He certainly felt that our role as a middle man and an honest broker was one we could play well and usefully in the future.

The trouble with the Leader of the Opposition is that he is just an old Tory who is right out of touch with the times.

**Mr. Pearson:** I refuse to be insulted.

**Mr. Green:** He has been away from external affairs for nearly three years now and he is right out of touch with the actual situation. Today it would be extremely hard to find two nations between which Canada could be a go-between. This idea that we should be a link pin is hopelessly out of date, in my judgment. As to Canada's taking a clear stand, an independent approach, this is very well shown by our stand with regard to nuclear tests.

**Mr. Pearson:** Your latest stand.

**Mr. Green:** The Liberals seem to be greatly worried about this stand on nuclear tests. We decided last year that the time had come for Canada to make it crystal clear that she was against any further nuclear tests. I explained that at the United Nations when I spoke on September 24. I used these words:

The Canadian people are unanimous in their wish to see an end to nuclear testing.

**Mr. Pearson:** Will the minister read the next sentence to that one? It is extremely important.

**Mr. Green:** Yes. It is as follows:

It is true that the principal difficulties have yet to be resolved; again they centre on the question of control.

**Mr. Pearson:** Exactly.

**Mr. Green:** Our stand has been against any further nuclear tests and, as I explained, we actually paid for that stand by voting against France on the question of the Sahara tests.

**Mr. Pearson:** May I ask the minister a question?

**Mr. Green:** Yes.

**Mr. Pearson:** I do not wish to interrupt the minister in his extremely interesting speech but this is a very important matter. He has said, quoting himself last September, that Canada is against any further nuclear tests, and then he quoted from that speech a sentence which said the central problem was control. Will the minister clear that matter up?

**Mr. Green:** I do not know how anybody can make the matter plainer than I have done. The Canadian government is opposed to further nuclear tests, period, and has been ever since that stand was taken in the United Nations.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the minister but I must inform him that his time has expired unless the house extends it.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Let the minister go on.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the house prepared to give the minister additional time?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Green:** I thank hon. members for that consideration.

As reported at page 942 of *Hansard* the hon. member for Essex East had this to say, and here again there was a divergence between the hon. member for Essex East and the Leader of the Opposition:

The gist of my question had to do with the reply that he made yesterday when he said that Canada took the position that there should be a ban on nuclear tests. I am not now quarrelling with that position.

He then went on to ask how we could possibly take that stand when some of our fellow members of the 10-member disarmament committee were taking a different stand? He said, as reported on page 943 of *Hansard* for February 10 last:

—we might find ourselves in relation to the Soviet union, assuming that they were not insistent on controls at that particular point, taking the same position which that country takes and finding ourselves opposed to the position which the United Kingdom and the United States might be taking in a matter where apparently they may continue to insist on controls even at what is called the threshold level.

Once again I can only say that we are against these tests, whether the United States or the United Kingdom are against them or not. This year we will be carrying on that policy in the disarmament committee.

**Mr. Pearson:** Would the minister explain, then, what his parliamentary secretary (Mr. Nesbitt) meant when he said on November 2 at the first committee of the United Nations that there must be control in relation to the abolition of tests?