

Supply

up and vote for something that is morally correct and appropriate given the times we are facing, then they should admit that they do not have the guts to vote for this because Canada is afraid of criticism.

Unfortunately, I do not think that anyone in the Government has thought out very clearly the approach that we should be taking. The motion put forward by the New Democratic Party today states very clearly what should be done. The Conservative Government should adopt as policy the motion put forward by the group at the United Nations. It should make a very clear statement that it is going to stop the kind of schizophrenic activity that the previous Liberal Government was involved in.

I would like to take a few minutes to review some of the activities of the previous administration because it ties into the amendment. The previous administration decided to test the Cruise missile. It took the flak for it across the country. I heard a Member of the Conservative Party say that this really does not involve nuclear weapons as it is only a delivery system. If it delivers a nuclear bomb which is designed to kill and destroy, then certainly it is a part of the nuclear freeze concept. Any weapon or any machinery that delivers or produces a weapon must be considered in a comprehensive nuclear freeze. The previous Liberal administration took the position that it was in favour of testing the Cruise missile. It allowed the construction of components of the nuclear weapons delivery system and, if I am not mistaken, of the weapons themselves. Today the Liberals talk of supporting nuclear freezes, but the past administration was not so inclined.

There are other aspects that were of serious concern. There were enormous demonstrations in Vancouver and other parts of the country. The presence of American vessels carrying nuclear weapons and the over-flying of Canada by American aircraft armed with nuclear weapons certainly are matters of serious concern. The previous Liberal Government of Canada was delaying to the point where it was ludicrous. It allowed the presence of American weapons on Canadian soil. A 1.5 megaton warhead on a Genie missile was fired from a Voodoo—an outdated aircraft, an outdated missile, and a completely outdated concept of defence.

It may pay to review how far out of touch that previous administration was, as were administrations prior to it. A Voodoo dating back to something like 1954 and this Genie missile with the 1.5 megaton warhead were thought to be useful in shooting a missile into incoming fleets of Russian bombers that were flying in formation over the north. Later on it was pointed out that there was only one propeller-driven Russian aircraft that was even capable of making that particular flight. It does not happen that way anymore. A committee in the United States Senate pointed out years ago that the concept was completely obsolete and that it obviously was there for alternative motives. Unfortunately, that administration adopted and continued with what essentially was an obsolete defence system. It was supportive of the manufacture of components into nuclear weapons delivery systems and nuclear weapons. It permitted nuclear armed aircraft to fly

over Canada and nuclear armed American vessels to enter Canadian harbours. Finally, it agreed with the testing of the Cruise missile. These facts should be placed clearly on the record. So I welcome the change in position of the present members of the Liberal Party, a change that advocates support for a nuclear freeze.

● (1730)

I believe, however, that the House should adopt our motion so that this Parliament can make a new start that will be divorced from the positions taken by past administrations. That new beginning can start with the support of a nuclear freeze. The members of the Official Opposition have ample opportunity to support the motion before us today in this new session of Parliament. In our motion we demand that the Government support a nuclear freeze and all its subsidiary requirements. In our motion we ask for a definite Canadian policy on a nuclear freeze that would break from the previous administration's approach to it.

Let me comment on the proposed amendment. I suggest that this amendment put forward by that Liberal group today would change the complete intent of what we are trying to do here. The United Nations resolution makes clear what we want to support. The final statement of our motion calls upon the Government to adopt it as policy. We clearly set out who should adopt this policy and which agency is responsible for enforcing it.

Third, we make it clear that we want to reject the policies of the previous administration in relation to the nuclear freeze and its various aspects. I suggest that to adopt the amendment would destroy completely the intent to make a new beginning that Canadians would like to see Parliament achieve.

Our motion does not have a political intent but, rather, one that has the clear goal of establishing a new direction and beginning. I hear some Liberal Members muttering with discontent, but I suggest we have held out the olive branch for them to join us in a new beginning.

It is significant that the amendment was proposed by the artful dodger, the Member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien). He stands up cunningly in the House to paint a picture that would make us believe that black is white and white is black. He has inferred that our Party is engaged in some political game, but I would refer him to debates which took place in the House when he was on the other side. He swore to one position then with regard to the Cruise missile debate, but we see him trying to adopt another position today.

Surely this amendment does not fit the circumstances and absolutely denies the intent of our motion. I believe that we have a valid and legitimate goal, which is to encourage the Government with the support of the Liberal Opposition, to adopt a policy of nuclear freeze that will mark a new beginning of change. It will signal that this is a different Parliament with a different administration that will not follow the rather schizophrenic aspects of the previous administration.

We have heard much detail about the various aspects of nuclear freeze, including technicalities and hypothetical situa-