

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion***BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

Mr. Starr: I should like to ask the house leader whether there is any change in the plans, or whether we will go on with this debate tomorrow, and on Thursday if necessary?

Mr. MacEachen: There is no change in plan, Mr. Speaker.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

NATIONAL DEFENCE—POSSIBILITY OF JOINING SOUTH AMERICAN NUCLEAR-FREE TREATY

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, on October 24, as reported at page 3422 of *Hansard*, I asked the following question:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the Latin American nuclear-free zone treaty would ban nuclear weapons from two thirds of the western hemisphere, and in view of the fact that the NORAD agreement is up for renegotiation at this time, has the government considered the possibility of joining the South and Central American nuclear-free zone as a positive step toward nuclear disarmament?

Then, Mr. Speaker, you intimated that you thought the question was much too general in scope to be dealt with at that time.

Why are we particularly interested in this question, Mr. Speaker? The members of this group have always been very concerned about the question of nuclear weapons. So that the house will know where we stand on this issue I want to quote from the "book of words"—the New Democratic party's resolution on this subject:

The New Democratic party believes that nuclear weapons on Canadian soil and in the hands of Canadian forces abroad add nothing to the security of Canada or of the western world. They serve only to reduce the effectiveness of Canada's role in disarmament and to encourage the spread of nuclear weapons. The New Democratic party, therefore, reiterates its opposition to nuclear weapons on our soil or for our forces anywhere and calls for the cancellation of the government's plans to acquire nuclear weapons. Instead, Canada should immediately join with Norway, Sweden and other smaller countries to establish a non-nuclear club within the UN consisting of nations which undertake not to produce, stockpile, use or permit on their soil nuclear weapons of any sort.

The New Democratic government will remove the useless and dangerous nuclear warheads on Canadian soil.

[Mrs. Wadds.]

Because of our attitude to this whole question I was very interested to read of the Latin-American nuclear free zone treaty, which promises to do just that, as far as the South American continent is concerned—to keep nuclear weapons away from the territory of all sovereign states between the Rio Grande and the south. Agreement on the terms of the agreement was reached at Mexico city on February 14, 1967, at which time 17 countries signed; four more have signed and others are signing. Personally, I believe that for Canada the treaty represents an opportunity and a challenge. That is the thinking of the members of this group. It offers Canada the opportunity to get rid of the presence on Canadian soil of nuclear weapons at air defence command stations which, in the words of the treaty, "make it a target for possible nuclear attacks." The possibility of joining this great denuclearized area of South and Central America arises at a time when the North Atlantic air defence agreement is up for renegotiation. NORAD has long outlived its usefulness from our point of view, and we have advocated for some years that Canada should withdraw from NORAD. But Canadian politicians continue to give lip service to the value of NORAD to Canada, and are reluctant to change their point of view in this respect.

● (10:10 p.m.)

I note that the parliamentary secretary is prepared to give me an answer. I should like him to tell this house, in reply to my question, that Canada and the Canadian government accept the challenge and opportunity presented by the treaty I have just mentioned.

Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I accept the challenge presented by the ignorance of the hon. member and will respond to his question. The first remark to be made is that the North American air defence treaty has neither relation to nor implication for the recently concluded treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons in Latin America or the Caribbean. As the hon. member knows, the government of Canada has been a strong advocate of nuclear disarmament in the 18 nation disarmament committee and has welcomed the conclusion of the Latin American treaty.

It should be borne in mind by the hon. member and his party that this treaty very precisely establishes which countries are