

Much, however, remains to be done, and no one can be very optimistic about the future. I say that without intending to be unduly panicky about the future. But no one can be unreasonably optimistic about the future as long as the free democratic and the Russian communist worlds face each other in fear, misunderstanding and mistrust.

In these international questions which I have been surveying, I fear, in a haphazard and inadequate way, Canada has made a good and effective contribution to the cause of good international relations and the achievement of real peace. Our prestige stands high among the nations; and I know that all Canadians will do their best to keep that position high.

At the same time, no Canadian government is ever likely to forget that the roots of a successful foreign policy must be deep in the knowledge and understanding of the people, in an enlightened awareness of what is in the best interests of our people. As I say, there should be no contradiction between our international and our national interests. In the difficult days ahead, while Canadian foreign policy must stand on its own feet, it must also march whenever possible, in step with those who are or who will become our friends. It must be based on the true interest of Canada but of a Canada which could not, even if it desired to do so, remain isolated or insulated from the community of all peoples which now inhabit our small atomic world.

#### Conclusion

The debate I am now closing has been, as I think all hon. members will agree, illuminating, constructive and helpful, and also conducted on a very high level of non-partisanship. During the debate some generous things have been said about the department over which I have the honour to preside at present, and about myself. So far as I am concerned, though I am a comparatively new member of the house, I am very fortunate in the friends that I have here, and I thank them for what they were good enough to say about my work.

I am fortunate also in the fact that the external policy of Canada, in its principles and objectives, to the extent that any policy can be in a parliamentary system of government is non-partisan in character; and of course I am the beneficiary of that happy circumstance. I think it makes my job, at least so far as parliament is concerned, much easier than that of any of my colleagues.

As far as the department is concerned I should like to echo the good things which have been said about it. I agree also with the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) when he remarked that we should not get too complacent, that, if we have accomplished anything, we should cultivate the healing virtue of humility. I agree also that in the growth of our international activities through the department we should not make the mistake, as the hon. member for Peel put it, of trying to keep up with the "international Joneses". I can assure him, if assurance is needed, that we do not do that; in our department we merely try to keep up with our international responsibilities. That, I think, is as far as the Department of External Affairs should ever want to go. In that sense we have expanded in recent years. The hon. member for Peel referred to our "mushroom growth". That is true, in the sense that we have grown quickly. We now have thirty-three diplomatic missions in other countries; but I would point out that there are more than forty diplomatic missions in this country, so I do not think we have expanded beyond our responsibilities. The hon. member for Peel also suggested that we must not run wild on expenses, and I quite agree. We are trying to run our department on a businesslike basis, and at the present time are making changes in our organization that we hope will make it more efficient, more businesslike, and of greater service to the people of our country. If we ever had any temptation to run wild on expenses, the appearance of our representatives before the committee on external affairs would always be a salutary check in that regard, to say nothing about our own Department of Finance and the treasury board.

In addition to the question of growth the hon. member for Peel also mentioned the question of recruitment, the type of people we are getting in the