

*External Affairs*

**Mr. Pearson:** When did I confirm it?

**Mr. Crestohl:** Yes; I was in the house. But let us have a look at it, if he confirmed it.

**Mr. Green:** He did confirm it; there is no doubt about that.

**Mr. Crestohl:** Yes; I remember. He certainly said that Canada enjoys the confidence of the other nations of the world. I am not denying that now. The minister is perfectly right in saying that. It is a proclamation or a statement, justifiable as it is in the opinion of the minister, but I do not know whether it is really a compliment to our country. I will stand by my statement.

**Mr. Grafftey:** Which one?

**Mr. Crestohl:** Does the hon. member think he can make headway by unbecoming interruptions? We are dealing with a rather serious matter and one which I think does not lend itself to light cajolery.

Mr. Speaker, a country or a person that has no enemies but has only friends is one that I would look upon askance. If we try to please everybody, you know what happens. You will recall Aesop's fable about the man who tried to please everybody and ended up by pleasing nobody. I think the modern version is that he who tries to be everything to everyone is nothing to anyone.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Your party has been doing that a great deal of the time.

**Mr. Crestohl:** Of course that is a gratuitous statement; and if that is the kind of statement the hon. member is making for Canada at the United Nations I am indeed sorry for our country.

It has been said that anyone can avoid criticism. Surely one can avoid criticism. How? You do nothing, you say nothing and the end is that you are nothing. We can continue to avoid criticism in the world if we will say nothing that will offend, if we will do nothing lest it offend, and we will suffer the consequences.

The minister said that Canada has no designs on any other country. It is just because of that fact, because Canada has no designs on any other country and because Canada enjoys the confidence and respect of every country, that Canada can be of great service in the cause of world peace. If we enjoy that impeccable reputation about which the minister speaks then I think we can become an instrument for peace, as we have been in the past, and for establishing good relations throughout the world. But simply to

say that we will at all costs avoid making enemies, is not, in my opinion, sound government policy.

As I said, Canada enjoys the respect and confidence of all nations; and we would be delinquent indeed in the cause of world peace if we were to withdraw from making our contribution as a mediator or as an honest broker, wherever we can do so, only because we might not be able to please everyone. That certainly is not a basis for withdrawing the services of Canada as an honest broker or as a mediator, as she has been in the past. Just to say "We will not interfere because we might displease someone" should not be the basis for our inaction.

The field of international mediation may perhaps be a field with which the minister is not very familiar or in which he may not have sufficient experience and for that reason wants to keep away from it and designs for Canada a new foreign policy of no enemies, all friends.

**Mr. Grafftey:** Who wrote that speech?

**Mr. Crestohl:** But is that the best way in which to serve the cause of world peace?

**Mr. Grafftey:** Who wrote that speech?

**Mr. Crestohl:** I wrote it myself, if the hon. member wants to know. I want to ask the minister whether it is the plan of the government to surrender this world reputation of Canada as a peacemaker or an honest broker, a reputation it has so enviably earned over the past number of years. Canada's great reputation amongst all nations was acquired as a result of courageous action and not by fearfully standing on the sidelines in international crises lest we might offend some friendly nation. The record shows that, even if we had to be critical of friendly nations they are now very close to Canada. We were critical and did not hesitate to criticize them when we thought they were wrong. We did not hesitate for a moment to point out where they were wrong and to be extremely critical where it was necessary. It is because our criticism was always honest, sincere and impartial that we earned this respect of the world and confirmed the Canadian courageous character by speaking up against international wrongs at all times.

May I illustrate by pointing out some of our country's diplomatic achievements since the creation of the United Nations which gave to Canada what I like to call Canada's golden era in international diplomacy. As the first example, I say it was the courageous action of Canadian diplomats which made it possible in 1947 to set up the state of Israel and the return of an age old people to its age old land. The decision of the United Nations was based on the conscience of the parliament of