

*External Affairs*

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give consideration to the advisability of recognizing the government of the Chinese People's Republic.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rather think the debate this afternoon in which most interesting facts were presented about the boy scouts, sea scouts and girl guides has rather cut into the time available to discuss the present motion. We in this group feel that this is a motion of interest to all members of the house and of importance to all the people of Canada. We in this group fully recognize that in introducing this motion certain basic aspects and fundamentals should be laid down. We feel strongly that it is necessary for all of us in North America to achieve a full understanding of Asia in general and China in particular.

When countries like China are discussed all we hear from a great many is talk about communism. The communists are definitely wrong in expecting the whole world to go communist but if we are to be realistic then I feel sure we will have to give up some of our own vain hopes. I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that if we believe in what we say about freedom and tolerance we shall have to stop insisting that eastern nations conform in all particulars to the western pattern or submit to what I might term western tutelage.

Everyone in the house knows and appreciates the fact that communist ideology is different from our own, and we are certainly entitled to differ. But, Mr. Speaker, I think we can ask by what logic does it follow that we should close our eyes to the facts of Chinese progress or refuse to shake hands with other people because of a differing political belief? I think we should also note that to the oriental mind the withholding of diplomatic recognition is an insult, and they are a proud people.

We in this group say without hesitation that strong efforts must be made to break through the present stalemate and find ways of living in peace with nations of different ideologies. Of course, when we tackle the problem of recognition in that manner there are those who try to make us believe that the present government of mainland China is not going to stay in power. It was, therefore, with a great deal of interest that I read reports about four members of the Ontario bar association who last fall spent a number of weeks in China. On their return one of them said in a major speech in Toronto not so long ago that nowhere did they get any suggestion or even a hint that the present regime in Peking is temporary or that it lacks popular support. It was stated that all the

evidence which came to their attention was, as a matter of fact, to the contrary.

If we are going to be realistic, Mr. Speaker, and surely we must be realistic, I think it must be understood that in the past decade the Chinese people have been engaged in a tremendous struggle to achieve national salvation and to emerge from centuries of abject poverty and cruel oppression. We in Canada, we in the House of Commons, may not be too happy about the methods that have been used, but all will agree, except those who are mentally blind or fanatics, that startling changes have taken place in that country.

There can be no question whatsoever that China portrays an almost overpowering picture of a nation making history with great speed, and whether or not we like it China is going to be a great power. It has a huge population, it is richly endowed with natural resources spread over an area as large as our own country, and I think it is acknowledged by nearly all that in the not too distant future China will be a highly industrialized nation. What all this means to Canada and our own future is something to which we are obliged to give serious thought. It is because we in this group along with a great many other people in Canada believe that Canada has to give very serious thought to what is taking place in that part of Asia that we have introduced the motion now before the house.

When we want to discuss the recognition of the People's Republic of China of necessity we hear objections from some sources. It is a matter of record that, to a great extent, the objections come from the other side of the line. It was significant that only the other day we had a visit from a well known individual in the United States, by name Walter S. Robertson, the assistant secretary of state for far eastern affairs.

It was interesting also to note that Mr. Charles Lynch, writing in the *Ottawa Citizen*, referred to Mr. Robertson as, "Mr. China Policy" in the state department. In this article Mr. Lynch referred to the views expressed by Mr. Robertson and stated that Mr. Robertson was here for one reason and that was to try to counteract the good reports that had been brought back to this country by some of our well known people who had visited China and, perhaps indirectly, to let the government of Canada know what the views of the government of the United States were.

I should like to deal very briefly with a couple of Mr. Robertson's objections as they were reported in the *Ottawa Citizen*, because they should be answered. I note that not only did Mr. Robertson stress objection to