

The Address—Mr. Pearson

of her NATO allies including the United States, the United Kingdom and France but strongly backed by uncommitted, neutralist and communist members including the U.S.S.R., which was designed to prevent the extension of the nuclear club. This is a most desirable objective but one which is entirely inconsistent with the use of such weapons in Canadian custody or under Canadian control.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, we are spending millions on weapons, some of them already in the hands of Canadian forces, which will have only a minimum of effectiveness without nuclear warheads.

Mr. Green: May I ask the Leader of the Opposition a question? How would he have voted on that Swedish resolution?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I will tell the hon. minister this, that if I had voted one way in New York I would have expected to be backed up by statements of my ministerial colleagues in Canada—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: —and if I were minister I would refuse to take a position at the United Nations which was contradicted by statements made by my colleagues at home.

Mr. Green: Will the Leader of the Opposition now answer the question, please?

Mr. Pearson: We are going to have a debate on external affairs.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearson: The minister has not denied the accuracy of anything I have said and I leave him to ruminate over the conclusions he may wish to draw from that record of contradiction. I say that the record is one of paying millions for weapons which have no warheads at all. Perhaps they will be filled with sawdust.

Mr. Hees: How would you have voted?

Mr. Pearson: We are spending millions of dollars for weapons that have no warheads and we are told that when the emergency develops we will then decide. Believe me, if an emergency develops in the way it is likely to develop the minister may not have very much time to decide. It will take 17 to 20 minutes for a missile to reach this continent. Is he going to have time then to move his warheads from the United States to North Bay? But that is the policy of the government with regard to these things. What kind of irresponsible confusion and concealment is this?

[Mr. Pearson.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: You have given an example of it.

Mr. Pearson: I know that it is almost impossible for the Prime Minister and his colleagues not to ask us what we would do because we on this side were so much more successful in doing the right thing when we were in government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearson: I do not blame them a bit for trying to get our views, especially as they do not seem to have views of their own.

Another notable omission in the speech from the throne, which I have mentioned and propose to deal with at considerable length, is the shocking, startling mismanagement of international economic policy by the present government. We have been told and we are going to be told in this debate that the state of international trade is most encouraging, that everything is fine, that our exports are going up.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Hear, hear. An all-time record.

Mr. Pearson: I was hoping for that interjection and I knew I would not be disappointed. Notwithstanding what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) has said here and the other day in Winnipeg, our relative position in regard to export trade has declined in the last five years. It has declined notwithstanding what the Minister of Finance said in Winnipeg. We are no longer the fourth trading nation in the world but the fifth, notwithstanding what the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees) are telling us. World exports have increased by 21 per cent since 1956 while Canadian exports have increased 11 per cent. Are we holding our own in world trade? Is the minister satisfied with the position we have achieved in world trade, especially as our increase in the current year is due largely to the fact that we are selling so very much more to communist countries and Cuba? Is that any foundation for satisfaction?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Do you object to that?

Mr. Pearson: I do not object a bit but I do not go around making these foolish statements that everything is fine with trade and that we are going ahead beautifully.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): When did you stop making foolish statements?

Mr. Pearson: Well, I would have a very hard time equalling the record of the minister