

Supply

said: "There is absolutely no connection between star wars and the DEW line". Richard Burt, a man who advises Canadian journalists, in doing what is called a backgrounder on the visit of President Reagan to our country, said: "Oh yes, there is a connection between star wars and the DEW line". Then when a reporter said: "Oh my goodness, the Canadian Government said the opposite", Mr. Burt said: "Oh my goodness, I made a mistake". Of course, the mistake was not what he had said in terms of its actual accuracy; his mistake was an error in judgment—he told the truth and he was not supposed to be telling us what it was all about.

As the Prime Minister always likes to do, I will leave the last word on this matter to President Reagan. Just yesterday President Reagan made an incredible speech, in many ways, on the eve of his departure from Canada. He included the following:

We look forward to the possibility of sharing new developments in SDI technology with Canada.

He certainly sees some kind of possible or potential link arising from the openness of the Government of Canada, not the people of Canada, toward this project.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): You are unbelievable.

Mr. Broadbent: I hear the Minister saying that I am unbelievable.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Yes, indeed. I am prepared to have a referendum on it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: I wish he would get hold of the article released yesterday by Mr. Genscher, the Foreign Secretary of West Germany, who has raised many questions about star wars. If that does not cause him to think a little more, maybe he would look at the one by Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, who is certainly saying one thing privately to other members of NATO which expresses his serious concern about the star wars initiative and indeed is saying things publicly which express a great deal of concern about the project. We would like to see this coming from the Government of Canada, not simply from Great Britain and West Germany.

The points are very clear. Star wars is a destabilizing concept and initiative. It was opposed not only by Canadians; it was opposed, to his credit, by Walter Mondale in the United States. It has been opposed by many defence officials in the United States. It has been opposed by men and women around the world who want the Soviet Union and the United States to start de-escalating the armaments race instead of getting it going on an even higher track. The Government of Canada either has to be naive about this or misleading, or both, and the people of Canada can make their judgment. In either case, the people of Canada do not want any connection with the star wars project.

• (1130)

I want now to conclude my observations. I say as a person who has spent some time studying Canadian history and has just made a very brief reference to virtually every Conservative Prime Minister since Confederation, that there is a new drift. There is a clear departure from the past Conservative traditions. I say that this continentalist drift that is under way must be stopped.

Canadians do want to be good neighbours. We do want to be good friends. However, we recognize seriously that while our destinies are indeed connected, we must continue the struggle of our ancestors in this nation to build on our part of the continent a nation clearly linked by history and geography with our American friends and neighbours, but a nation clearly in command of its own political, military, economic and cultural decisions. Previous Conservative Governments in our history have understood that, in the final analysis, maintaining good relationships between neighbouring nations of unequal power requires constant vigilance on the part of Canada. It requires independence of thought, action and program. The new Conservative Government either does not understand this or, more alarmingly, does not care. The new Conservative Government has embarked upon the most radical change in Canada-U.S. relations in this century.

Misunderstanding the nature of loyalty, it is forgetting, as Escott Reid pointed out in a moving article in today's *Citizen*, that the loyal ally must at times oppose with all its determination the particular policies of its neighbour. Misunderstanding our own real cultural, economic and defence needs, the Conservative Government is prepared to leave us adrift on the tumultuous North American seas in the naive hope we can survive without a chart. Misunderstanding its obligation to provide confident leadership to Canadians, the new Government has decided to follow an American President. I urge strong support for the motion before the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker—

An Hon. Member: Act two.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I do not know whether the crowd will stay for the third act.

Mr. Lawrence: What crowd?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Hon. Member for Durham-Northumberland (Mr. Lawrence) points out that the Conservatives are huddled around their Minister to try and give the appearance of some cohesion for the television cameras.

I have observed with great interest, as has the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), the events of the last weekend in Quebec City. One is always pleased and gratified to see written another chapter in the long and friendly history of relations between Canada and the United States.