

The Address—Mr. Crestohl

to do that, and every Canadian will, no doubt, in his own way and by his own means try to draw conclusions from this comparison. Similarly this is the proper place and the proper time for members of the House of Commons to make this examination and do some soul searching. Let us see what such an examination would produce. Let us recall, for the purpose of comparison, a few of Canada's achievements during the 10 years before 1957—achievements which made every Canadian swell with pride. I once referred to that period as Canada's golden era of international diplomacy. Some of the highlights deserve repetition. In the first place, Mr. Louis St. Laurent fathered the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In the second place this country was honoured by the election of a Canadian as president of the United Nations. Third, it was the courageous work of Canadian diplomacy which led to the creation of Israel as a sovereign state.

A Canadian was responsible for setting up a military force to maintain peace in the middle east and a Canadian diplomat was named its first commanding officer. Next, Canada was elected one of the three nations to supervise the truce in Indochina. Canada was also invited to help supervise the teams set up in Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Then, again, it was on Canada's initiative that the admission was secured of 16 new countries to the United Nations, a performance which won the commendation of the entire world both east and west. Then there was the epic journey of a Canadian minister in the face of communist danger to liberate thousands of Hungarians and bring them to Canada where they are settled happily as good Canadians. There are many more such creditable achievements which I could mention, but the crowning glory for Canadian diplomacy was the award of the Nobel peace prize to a Canadian diplomat.

All these things made Canada very proud and elevated our prestige in the world to the loftiest level of respect and confidence. These are only some of the things which created an image of Canada that was respected and acknowledged throughout the world, whether members and supporters of the present government wish to admit it or not. Until 1957, these achievements, and others like them too numerous to mention, created in the eyes of human beings everywhere a splendid image of what Canada is like. People thought of Canada as really being one of the most wonderful countries in the world. It is no wonder people were anxious to come to Canada; they had heard these wonderful things about Canada.

When we examine these facts objectively, I say: which of the present government's accomplishments is comparable to any one of those I have mentioned? I do not know of one, nor, I think, does anybody else. The best the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming), was able to point to was the speech delivered by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) at the United Nations. It was a splendid speech, a splendid oration. I will admit that, and I think everyone will admit it. But what did it accomplish for the world or for Canada? Unfortunately, it accomplished nothing. It was just talk by the Prime Minister—important talk if you will, able talk, if you like, but nothing more. The Minister of Finance, still searching vainly for some accomplishment, also referred to the speech made on disarmament by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green). This speech, again, was a valiant effort, a splendid speech. But again I ask: what did it accomplish?

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): What did you accomplish in the field of disarmament?

Mr. Crestohl: I am putting before the house an affirmative record. I challenge hon. members opposite to show me a similar affirmative record. But I will deal with that question. What did we accomplish in the field of disarmament? We maintained the peace throughout the world where there were trouble spots. Our diplomats went out there at the risk of their lives and prevented these trouble spots developing into conflagrations. The speech made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs was very accomplished and very sincere, but unfortunately it accomplished nothing.

An hon. Member: Boloney.

Mr. Crestohl: The hon. member may describe the accomplishments of his government in those terms. It is not my description. The speech accomplished nothing and that is as far as I will go. I regret its failure. It is unfortunate. I wish the hon. gentleman had succeeded. We shall come in a moment to the reasons why no success has been achieved. I say it is possible that we lacked the necessary world confidence and prestige to command the accomplishments for which we had hoped.

This government has now had four years of office. Let us compare briefly the two records. One is a story of achievement. I have just shown that there was 10 years replete with real achievement in the world of international affairs. What does the other record show? Unfortunately it shows nothing in the way of accomplishment. It has just produced talk. From what I have said, hon. members will see that some of us have the right to