

External Affairs

any further nuclear tests by any nation. We would have voted the same way if it had been a test by the United States or a British test. I do not believe there is very much more we can do on that particular question.

There has been a great deal of discussion about our action in votes at the United Nations on apartheid. I dealt with that question when I spoke last Wednesday. There is one feature I should like to clear up tonight. Both the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Assiniboia, and perhaps others, said that we were choosing between South Africa and the other members of the commonwealth. The fact is that the representatives of the other commonwealth countries are just as intelligent, just as bright, as the Canadian delegates at the United Nations. This question was thoroughly talked over with them and they understood the reasons for our action on this question. It is not a case of the new nations not understanding views. Their men are well trained and we could talk with them frankly on this question or on any other question. As a matter of fact, they were so pleased about our vote on the nuclear test in the Sahara, because at first they were doubtful that a western country would stand up and vote with them, that I do not think any hon. members across the way need worry that Canada's prestige with the nations of Africa and Asia has fallen in any degree whatever. I think it is higher today than it has ever been.

By the way, there is one further comment I should like to make on that. These new nations understand adherence to principle. They understand when a nation believes that it should take a stand based on its own judgment, and that is right in line with their own views. They are noted for their insistence on being able to exercise their own independent judgment on issues as they arise in the United Nations. I believe they admire Canada for following a similar practice.

I now come to my notes which I had prepared for a reply this evening. First of all I want to deal with the two Liberal foreign affairs twins. I am not sure who the foreign affairs critic is across the way. One minute I think it is the hon. member for Essex East and the next minute the Leader of the Opposition jumps in and I find I have two critics vying with each other for pages in *Hansard*, sometimes coming up on opposite sides of the question and quite often covering the whole issue from one side to the other so that it is rather hard to tell just where the Liberal party stands.

Mr. Pearson: We are not sure who the minister is; it is worse to have two ministers.

[Mr. Green.]

Mr. Green: The government is convinced that Canada's role is not—and I repeat "is not"—to be a go-between among the nations. I pointed that out in my opening remarks. As reported at page 930 of *Hansard* I said this:

—the time has come to drop the idea that Canada's role in world affairs is to be an "honest broker" between the nations. We must decide instead that our role is to be to determine the right stand to take on problems, keeping in mind the Canadian background and, above all, using Canadian common sense. In effect, the time has come to take an independent approach.

It was interesting to see the reaction of these two Liberal foreign affairs critics to that statement. The comment by the hon. member for Essex East will be found at page 941 of *Hansard*. He said this:

I agree with the Secretary of State for External Affairs that the evolution of this nation from colony to nation, from a country playing a limited part in foreign affairs to one where its position is recognized as important, is not now to be characterized merely as that of honest broker.

The hon. member for Vancouver East took the same position, to be found at page 961 of *Hansard*.

Mr. Pearson: Will the minister read the rest of that paragraph in fairness to my friend the hon. member for Essex East?

Mr. Green: Oh, yes. There was a little bit of praise in there for the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Pearson: Go ahead and put it on the record.

Mr. Green: The hon. member for Essex East continued:

I agree with what the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said in that regard—

Mr. Pearson: You see, we do agree.

Mr. Green: The quotation continues:

—as indeed we were often reminded in this house by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson)—

But you ought to hear what the same Leader of the Opposition said in this debate.

—when, as secretary of state for external affairs he said repeatedly—

And so on.

Mr. Pearson: And so on.

Mr. Green: Then the hon. member for Vancouver East had this to say, as reported at page 961 of *Hansard*:

The main theme of the minister's speech yesterday was that Canada had to leave the old role of mediator and broker, and establish a procedure of independent, active policies in international affairs. We in this party welcome the minister's pronouncement of a policy based on independent, active participation.