

*Interim Supply*

It was a report of the British medical research council into the dangers that might lie in continued thermonuclear test explosions. It was published in the *Lancet*, and published by what is I think usually considered as the premier medical research organization in the world, the British medical research council, which unlike most other organizations has under its control virtually all the medical research in that country. They have come out rather definitely in their statement which was produced in the organ of the British medical association, the *Lancet*. They say, to start with:

—the radioactive accumulations from H-bomb explosions "may be near the danger point . . ."

Commenting on the statement by Prime Minister MacMillan this week that the government will carry out its planned H-bomb experiment in the South Pacific this year, the *Lancet* says:

"For those who fear, as we do, that the radioactive accumulation from thermonuclear explosions may be near the danger point, there can be little lasting comfort in the news that British bombs are small bombs, while the action of other countries remains in doubt.

The only course that does not involve risks which, in relation to mankind as a whole, are utterly unjustifiable is for the three governments so far concerned to stop thermonuclear explosions of all kinds."

I am well aware, of course, that the Canadian government is not itself directly responsible for thermonuclear explosions. But I would point out that we have perhaps an important responsibility resulting from the fact that we are one of the world's major sources of fissionable material and also because of our peculiar position with regard to two of the powers that are engaged in this criminal folly, one the United States of America and the other the United Kingdom.

I am well aware, too, that even though we were able to persuade the British and the United States governments to stop thermonuclear explosions, we have no means whatever of dealing with the third power that is engaged in this disastrous work. I am well aware that there is not in the Soviet union an effective body of public opinion to which we could appeal. I would point this out, and I am supported by those who should know, that there is little or no military advantage to be gained from further thermonuclear explosions. In fact I think it is not too much to say that the purposes of these explosions are entirely different from their ostensible purposes and that the United States and the Soviet union are using these explosions as part of the cold war. The purpose is something akin to the meaning of that old phrase that used to be used in my childhood, "showing the flag". This meant that you went

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo).]

and shook the stick of your naval power in the face of people you felt had to be brought to time.

I submit that could be the only purpose of these explosions, to act more or less as weapons in the cold war. In so far as Great Britain is concerned, pathetically enough for one who was born there, I have to accept the fact that on her own admission she is embarking on this course for the very paltry reason of national prestige; a very dangerous position.

**Mr. Bell:** Shame.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo):** Prime Minister MacMillan himself stated that that is their purpose; they must do it in order that they may maintain their prestige. I hear somebody say "shame". The Prime Minister of Great Britain admits himself that it is necessary for Britain's international prestige that she engage in this dangerous folly.

**Mr. Bell:** I object to the word "paltry".

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo):** I am afraid I consider any reason that is not absolutely incontrovertible for engaging in this dangerous folly to be a paltry reason because we are playing here with something that is much more important than any matter that has been discussed in this house during this session, that is the very future of the human race.

I should like to quote from a series of addresses given at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology by one of the world's leading mathematicians, Professor Bronowski, who was the man who wrote the report for the British government on the Nagasaki and Hiroshima explosions. He has this to say in his first address to the students of M. I. T.:

The power of science for good and for evil has troubled other minds than ours. We are not here fumbling with a new dilemma; our subject and our fears are as old as the tool-making civilizations. Men have been killed with weapons before now: what happened at Nagasaki was only more massive (for 40,000 were killed there by a flash which lasted seconds) and more ironical (for the bomb exploded over the main Christian community in Japan). Nothing happened eleven years ago except that we changed the scale of our indifference to man; and conscience, in revenge for an instant became immediate to us. Before this immediacy fades in a sequence of televised atomic tests, let us acknowledge our subject for what it is: civilization face to face with its own implications.

I submit that the government of Canada, in its unique position in relation to two of the powers engaged in these tests and in relation to its position as one of the major sources of fissionable material, has a direct responsibility to speak openly and bluntly about this dangerous criminal folly. I have no doubt whatever members of the Canadian