

An hon. Member: I never saw such treatment of a former Prime Minister.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Has the hon. member been given the floor by the Chair?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Yes, the hon. member for Oxford has been given the floor.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Speaker, I think it is a great pity that this House did not have the opportunity of hearing the concluding remarks of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) who probably has more experience in foreign affairs over the years than anybody in this House. Be that as it may, I should like to say that like the right hon. member for Prince Albert and the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie), I am glad to hear of any treaty, protocol or arrangement that will help reduce tension directly or indirectly between the super powers or any other powers in the world.

As I see it, the prime objective of Canada's foreign policy is to do everything possible to prevent a major war from breaking out between the two super powers. The fate of Belgium and the Netherlands in the last two world wars would be nothing to what would happen to us if war broke out between the Soviet Union and the United States, or China and the United States. We would be the ham in the sandwich; there is no doubt about that. All our foreign policy and objectives should be directed toward prevention of such an outbreak.

As has been said by the right hon. member for Prince Albert, the protocol itself is very innocuous; it is an expression of hope for the future, nothing else. We know that it is not what is done in this world that is important so much as what appears to be done. It is not the importance of the protocol itself that concerns us; the accompanying words and the extraneous remarks made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in referring to it have caused unease in Canada and apprehension on the part of some of our allies. According to press reports, the Prime Minister said that the protocol is what we make of it, that it is elastic. We heard the right hon. member for Prince Albert point out the dangers of American military domination and political involvement. This apparently is very much in accord with the views of the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané) but he was not anxious to hear any further remarks from the right hon. gentleman.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) mentioned the occasion when the right hon. Prime Minister said to the Ukrainians in Kiev, "After all, there are people in Canada of Ukrainian descent who are just the same as Ukrainians in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic." I cannot help recalling at this point that I had the honour of representing Canada for a number of years at the United Nations and sat next to the representatives of Byelorussia, one of the states of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

According to the charter of the United Nations, all member states should be independent, but any time a speech was delivered by a member of this delegation it

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was brought over by a member of the Soviet delegation and handed to him. There was no secret about it. On one occasion when nothing particular was taking place, it was the duty of the member of the Byelorussian delegation to commence the vote and he did not know how to go about it. The president of the assembly, who was Irish, leaned over to him and said, "You are supposed to vote 'Yes'". Nobody laughed louder than the Soviet Union delegates. This is the kind of thing we have to face.

• (3:30 p.m.)

When the Prime Minister tells the people of the Ukraine that they are living in the Soviet Union in the same way as the people of Canada, it is either a reflection on the government of this country or a forewarning of what is to come during the next year or two. We had better take careful note of this. I hope the Prime Minister will clarify the remarks he made about the United States of America when he speaks this afternoon. I would not have been surprised had these remarks been made by my colleagues to the left. Over the years that I have been here, and for many years prior, they have been openly distrustful of the United States, if not harbouring an absolute hatred of that country. There has never been any doubt about that. This is rather singular of them.

Seeing the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre here this afternoon reminds me of a similar debate in this House in 1955. As I recall, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre took part in the debate, as I did. The subject was the same as today, foreign affairs. One or two members, myself included, pointed out that the foreign policy of the former CCF, the successor of which is the New Democratic Party, had—as a peculiar coincidence—always been identical with that of the Soviet Union. I am not imputing any motives; it may be an accident.

An hon. Member: You are kidding.

Mr. Nesbitt: In a jocular way one hon. member has said, "You are kidding". I presume this means he agrees. Look back to see what has happened. The Marshall plan was introduced. It rebuilt and saved Europe. Who in this country opposed it? The CCF of the day. During the United Nations expedition into Korea to contain Russian and Chinese aggression in that country, who opposed it? Again it was the CCF. There are many incidences I could quote. That party opposed NATO. Anything built or designed to prevent further Russian expansion in Europe in the post-war days was always opposed by members to my left. What their motives were, I do not know. There may be a few among them who did not do this.

I have followed this matter very closely. The only time I can recall any member of the NDP or their predecessors opposing anything that the Russians did was when Czechoslovakia was invaded. As I recall, the then leader of the party said something like, "Naughty, naughty; you must not do it". That was about it. On every occasion when the United States does anything that is entirely popular, it appears that Satan himself and all the legions from the lower region are involved and that our main danger and enemy is the United States of America. I am