

*Supply—External Affairs*

and the press of western Europe you see an entirely different approach to this situation.

We are not underestimating the seriousness of the situation but we do think there has been an attempt to put the thing in the wrong perspective as far as United States citizens are concerned. We think that again the Canadian government can play a very important role here. It has done some good things in the past and in recent days. It has taken very sound action on certain matters when we were not in entire agreement with our friends to the south but which actions have been welcomed by other governments in the commonwealth and other governments in the world generally.

I should like to read now from an editorial written by the publicity director of the Progressive Conservative association of Kootenay West. The minister knows this gentleman quite well indeed. I usually differ with him quite violently on many things. I wish to read the editorial because in walking down the main street of Trail I was amazed to meet people who disagree with this gentleman on most things but who had read this editorial and who said to me, "Here is one thing he said that was right". I suppose I spoke to a hundred people when I was in Trail who made the same comment about this editorial. I am reading it simply to indicate the state of mind of many Canadians under these circumstances. This is what the publicity director of the Progressive Conservative association of Kootenay West had to say, and surely the minister will accept this:

Let's watch the Germans. It is astonishing with what willingness these West Germans are prepared to place our necks on the block in order that their own comfortable and prosperous way of life may proceed undisturbed.

The nerve of these people is something to behold. Twenty years ago, they were perpetrating upon humankind atrocities the like of which had never been seen before. Anything the Russians may have done has been kid stuff by comparison.

These indignant Germans plunged the world into two major wars which have brought democracy as we understand it to the brink of extinction. Now they have the gall to liken President Kennedy, in his reluctance to engage in an all-out shooting war over Berlin, to Chamberlain. They even sent Kennedy a symbolic Chamberlain umbrella. The fact that Chamberlain, in his apparent weakness, gained for the allies a couple of invaluable years in which to organize some sort of defence against Germany seems to escape them entirely.

In any event, we are quite capable of assessing the significance of current events in Berlin and East Germany without any assistance from the West Germans. As far as we are concerned the West Germans should be invited to button up and right quickly. If we are going to fight the Russians, it will be over something of considerably more consequence to the world than what happens to the West Germans.

As a matter of fact, there does not appear to us to be any particular issue shaping up in Berlin. Khrushchev has already undertaken that our access

[Mr. Herridge.]

to West Berlin is not to be blocked, that our "lawful rights" to be in Berlin at all are to be safeguarded.

It would be a tragedy if we were now to fall for the guff being peddled by a group of West German malcontents and conspirators who, by virtue of an altogether undeserved measure of allied Christian charity, have prospered so well since 1945.

Probably we should pull out of Germany altogether and leave the Germans to sort out their own reunification problems. If we did, they would probably start shooting one another the day after. That, however, would be better than sacrificing Canadian lives in a fruitless struggle with the Russians over one miserable Teuton city.

As I say, I differ with the writer on many things but I recognize that we have certain responsibilities. I have read this editorial in order to indicate what a prominent Conservative in my own constituency is thinking and to point out that many people have said to me, "I differ with that man on most things but on this matter he was correct". I do so to indicate a frame of mind which must be recognized. Then we have the view expressed by the chairman of the B.C. power commission, Dr. Keenleyside, who was a deputy minister under the Liberal administration at the same time as the Leader of the Opposition was under-secretary of state for external affairs. I read the following from the Nelson daily *News* of August 28, last:

Dr. Keenleyside, who formerly headed the Canadian committee for control of radiation hazards, said, "risking war over the issue of West Berlin is the final evidence of the bankruptcy of our diplomatic policy."

He added that the west must agree to the permanent division of Germany and grant full recognition to East Germany in a compromise agreement with Soviet Premier Khrushchev. It was obvious that Russia would never agree to German unification when that could mean Germany would be in NATO and armed with nuclear weapons.

"If the U.S. goes into hysterics over a semi-communist Cuba why should we expect the Russians to agree to the build-up of an infinitely worse threat from a united enemy?"

Dr. Keenleyside said the west was in "an impossible situation" in Berlin and would have to abandon it sooner or later.

That is Dr. Keenleyside, chairman of the B.C. power commission. Although I do not have them here, the Hon. James Sinclair, a member of the former Liberal cabinet, has also made some very strong statements very much after the fashion of Dr. Keenleyside. In fact, he has indicated that in his opinion it would be complete foolishness for the western world to embark upon a war over the situation that exists in West Berlin. I have mentioned these press items and my conversations with various people to indicate that people are taking an interest in the situation. They are supporting the government in all it can do to prevent anything so tragic and unfortunate as war over an issue which these people are not prepared to admit is a sound one.