

Firing of A.B.M. Warheads over Canada

I would also like to say to hon. members, particularly members of the New Democratic party, that some of us have to be realistic. We cannot all be dreamers. I would also suggest to the Secretary of State for External Affairs that rather than direct the questions he did tonight to the Leader of the N.D.P. it would benefit Canada much more if he directed his questions to his own Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). They say there is no difference. There is one difference; I think it is mathematically impossible for the leader of the N.D.P. to ever sit in that seat, having in mind the time he has left in this house. The present Prime Minister is supposed to speak for Canada. To my knowledge he has not given the Canadian people the benefit of the decision his cabinet has made in respect of this issue, and in fact in respect of the whole issue of continental defence, in which I think we must all admit we are involved.

● (10:40 p.m.)

I had not planned to take part in this discussion because I do not believe there is any more substance to it than the other favourite topics raised periodically by our socialist friends to my left. But as a result of listening to the tenor of some of the remarks which have been made I feel compelled to rise and place before you a point of view which I believe is shared by a great many Canadians.

I believe we all admit that no one wants another war. Certainly, those who have taken part in a past war would be the last to want to participate in another. No one wants Canada to be a battleground. No one wants bombs or missiles which possibly would be intended for other countries to come down on our own country. We do not want anything of that type to burst over Canadian soil. There is, however, a vast difference between what we want and what could actually happen. The plain fact of the matter is we cannot be our own masters because of our geographical and political position.

Defensive theories have changed since the advent of nuclear arms. These theories have not actually been tested yet. We are, or should be, partners whether we like it or not. Our past commitments have made us partners in a continental defence. The question the Canadian people are asking today is whether we are going to live up to these commitments. I believe that if we are not going to do this then it is time our present Prime Minister told not only the people of Canada but our previous partners about these continental

[Mr. McIntosh.]

commitments. This house can pass all the pious resolutions it wishes and the government of Canada can make all the self-righteous protests it wants, but the fact remains that the world's dominant nations will not be listening. We are powerless to change the course of whatever events may lie in store for us.

It actually means little to the major powers of the world whether the Canadian Prime Minister makes up his mind tonight, next week or a month from now. I believe it is about time this country stopped pussy-footing. It is about time we stood up and were counted. Either we want freedom enough to fight for it or we do not. Right now, I would wager that no one in the world knows exactly what Canada wants or what we, as a nation, are willing to do. Certainly, I as a member of the official opposition in this house, do not know what the present policy is of this government.

Mr. Stanfield: How could you know; there isn't one.

Mr. McIntosh: In fact tonight, after listening to the speech of the Prime Minister, after listening to the speech of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) and after listening to the speech of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) it would seem to me that there has been no co-operation and no co-ordination in respect of what they all believe.

Surely, after the questions which have been asked in this house for the last several days with regard to what the United States authorities have told the Canadian government, this must have been known to the Prime Minister. The Minister of National Defence said he has had this information for weeks. He read it out to the house. He even knew the specifics about the Spartan and the Sprint. He mentioned 400 miles. I am informed that the minimum range of the Spartan is 75 miles. If it is 400 miles then we in Canada should be concerned, particularly western Canadians.

There was never before in our history this uncertainty. In two world wars Canadians fought for those things they wanted and believed to be right. Other nations were in no doubt concerning where Canada stood. I grant that today the face of warfare has changed to such an extent that it may no longer be practical for a small nation such as ours to contribute directly to the expensive and sophisticated techniques of nuclear missile