

**Mr. Sharp:** We never claimed that.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** My friend, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), who is no longer Acting Prime Minister, shows his sense of relief. He says "We never claimed that". I suggest that the sorts of things he has been saying in reply to questions in the past few days, and the kinds of statements we have been getting from the press and will get from the Prime Minister this afternoon are along that line. Maybe it is not the millennium, but the Liberals think that somehow the world is going to be better because of this historic, important document.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I wonder whether Your Honour has had time to read either the protocol that was signed in Moscow or the communique that was tabled this morning. I read each of them two or three times to try and find something in them. As I said, it is like a couple of juveniles who became friends at a summer camp and said to each other "Let's keep on being friends. Let's be penpals. Let's write back and forth and agree to meet each other sometime in the future." This protocol really amounts to nothing more.

There is no change in foreign policy on the part of the Canadian government implied in these documents. There is certainly no change in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union in either of these documents to which Premier Kosygin is apparently a party. They are just expressions of how important our two peoples are, how our problems are alike, how nice it would be to consult with each other if there is any problem which concerns us both and how nice it would be if we would do our part to strengthen the United Nations and make for a more peaceful world.

I had the privilege of visiting the Soviet Union in 1946, 25 years ago. They did not give me the same kind of red carpet treatment which they gave the Prime Minister.

**An hon. Member:** Just a pink carpet.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** They treated me courteously and cordially. Mind you, it was rather a dramatic experience. While I was in the Soviet Union in February, 1946, the news about the Gouzenko situation came out in Canada. The warm hospitality which I had enjoyed for two or three days was suddenly interrupted. On a certain day, there were no guides to take me anywhere. I had to walk around Moscow and ride the subway by myself. In any event, I was impressed by the friendliness and how much the Soviet Union is like Canada, especially in February. Moscow and Winnipeg in winter, la même chose. I returned from that trip, which was before the cold war really got going, feeling that there was value in having friendly relations with that country and in trying to develop those relations. On March 19, 1946, I stood in my place in this House and suggested to the then Prime Minister, Mr. King, that he should visit Moscow in order to receive the same kind of friendly reception. Nobody thought the world would come to an end because I suggested that kind of friendliness. I am not trying to say that very much came of it.

#### *U.S.S.R.-Canada Protocol*

The only reason I mention that trip, the plea I made for friendship and how little came of it, is that I do not think there is much more before us at the present time.

I say to my friends on both sides of the House, don't get too excited. It is a Friday afternoon. If we do not want to do anything very heavy or serious, it is all right to have this discussion. I say this in particular to the Progressive Conservative members who may follow later in this debate. Please do not indulge in red baiting and please do not complain about building bridges of friendship. I say to those on the government side of the House, if you want to do something constructive in the field of foreign relations, you will have to do a lot more than has been done during this week's Cook's tour of the Soviet Union.

The rumour about the Prime Minister coming in this afternoon is interesting. I do not intend to try to keep speaking until he gets here. In any event, I am under a time limit. If the Prime Minister does come, I hope he will not just rehash what is in the communique. I hope he will not just give us a travelogue and tell us how much he enjoyed the friendliness and so on. I hope he will tell us whether there were any discussions about the Berlin wall, the problems relating to fisheries and whether there were discussions with Premier Kosygin about the trials and persecutions of Jewish citizens in the Soviet Union. In other words, let us deal with a few concrete things. I hope he may tell us what progress was made in terms of furthering disarmament and also in terms of what kind of contribution we might make, our two countries and any others, toward strengthening the United Nations as an instrument for world peace and human accord.

• (2:20 p.m.)

**An hon. Member:** That is what you are going to hear.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The hon. member across the way says that is what we are going to hear. Normally on a Friday attendance in the House dwindles. Sometimes we get below a quorum and have to wink at it. Well, this afternoon there is the prospect of the Prime Minister coming in, and there is also the prospect of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) making a speech. It promises to be a good afternoon in terms of histrionics, in terms of the dramatic. But if the government wants Canada to play a constructive and vital role in external affairs a lot more is called for than the kind of trip which the Prime Minister, Mrs. Trudeau and the members of his party have just made.

Something really substantial should be done to play our part in the bringing to an end of the war in Viet Nam. Serious attention should be given to the situation now facing the world in East Pakistan or Bengla Desh. It was good to hear the announcement this morning that there would be a contribution of \$2 million made toward aid and relief for those who are suffering because of the civil war but there is a festering sore there which will require a political solution. We have got brains in the Department of External Affairs. I suggest the govern-