

*The Address—Mr. Stevens***FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS
AND ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING ACT,
1977**

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-12, intituled "An Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977".

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed from Tuesday, January 24, 1984, consideration of the motion of Mr. Jack Burghardt for an address to his Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, in joining in this debate today, I felt it might be appropriate to make first at least some brief reference to what the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) indicated last night in his remarks. Then perhaps I would like to go on to deal with the serious omissions which I felt were in the speech of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In short, I believe it would be fair to say that with much of what the Secretary of State for External Affairs said last night most Hon. Members of this House would not disagree. He went to some length to outline the background of the various peace overtures and attempts which have been made by him or the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) with respect to the ongoing negotiations between the East and West with respect, for example, to questions of disarmament and all of the related matters.

All in this House, and I would venture to say all in this land, agree with the thrust which is being outlined. The Minister referred specifically to the speech given by the Prime Minister on October 27 in Guelph in which the Prime Minister outlined what he felt were the significant thrusts which he would like to pursue for reasons on which I am not completely clear. The Minister chose not to refer to the Montreal speech on November 13 which elaborated on the points raised in Guelph and, perhaps, in much more succinct and clear terms set out exactly what the Prime Minister was seeking to achieve. In the remarks, though, which were given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs last night, I was rather surprised—and of course this has also been the custom of the Prime Minister—that no reference was made to where virtually all of the Prime Minister's ideas have come from. You will find, Mr. Speaker, if you are a student of the ongoing discussions with respect to disarmament, that virtually everything the Prime Minister has said to date, certainly in the sense of setting out specific points

of what he would like to see done, was set out in the program of action in the final document of the United Nations special session on disarmament which was adopted in 1978.

● (1520)

I could take you step by step through the five points in the Montreal speech, or perhaps the four points to which they seem to be condensed, and show you paragraph by paragraph where a similar thought, in some cases almost the identical terminology, is in the final document prepared at those United Nations discussions in 1978. To cite two or three examples of what I am referring to, we find that this "Program for Action" recommended that what they call the nuclear weapons states get together and meet. Paragraph 53 urged that the process of nuclear disarmament "be expedited by the urgent and vigorous pursuit to a successful conclusion of ongoing negotiations and the urgent initiation of further negotiations among the nuclear weapons states."

As you will recall, in the early 1970s a series of initiatives were undertaken in an attempt to reach some type of negotiating conference of the five nations, but unfortunately at that time they failed following what appeared to be a rather bitter rivalry between the two nations of China and the Soviet Union. Again referring to the final document, you will note that paragraphs 65 to 71 deal with the whole question of nuclear non-proliferation in much the same terms as the Prime Minister had dealt with that question in his speeches. Paragraph 82 of the final document refers to the mutual and balanced reduction talks. I think again you will find that essentially what the Prime Minister has outlined is all there for the reading. Dealing with the question of suffocation, which the Prime Minister spoke about to the United Nations in May, 1978, you will find that that concept was largely caught in the final document in paragraphs 50 and 51.

I am suggesting this, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is important to bear in mind that the will has been there, not just in Canada or the western world but throughout the world generally, to try to solve the ongoing dispute currently preventing a meaningful arms reduction and, hopefully, some type of agreement on nuclear disarmament. I say that because I do not think it is really a question for debate in the House; it is agreed to. What I think should be of greater concern to Members is what we can do effectively to achieve those goals.

Perhaps it would have been helpful if the Prime Minister, and certainly the Secretary of State for External Affairs, had taken us into their confidence yesterday and indicated in more specific terms what were the steps that they thought may bring about the miracle. Or perhaps they might have acceded to the simple request that we have made for some time to refer that issue to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence of this House so that the various aspects of this whole question could be properly dealt with, witnesses could be heard and, in short, each Member of the House could then have a meaningful input into the ongoing discussions and dialogue not only as Members but as citizens of one of the most important western democracies.