

NATO

being constructed, but the Soviet government did not have, to carry out its projects, to appeal to the Washington market for funds.

We also visited house building projects, but we did not hear the minister say that there was no money for housing. Work or tools are not provided to build houses, because the subway, the transportation system, in short, everything belongs to the government.

We are against such a government control and we wonder why, in a world which we consider as free and developed, which has huge opportunities and unparalleled resources, we could not do, with all our freedom, what the Soviets are able to do, despite their communist ideology.

Let us station as many soldiers as we want in western Germany, let us go to Europe with the 20 million Canadians to safeguard peace in case of aggression, and let us kill, if it suits us, as many Communists as we can, we will realize that it is not with guns, cannons or shells that we will destroy the communist ideal.

We can check the rise of communism in the world by fighting it, not with weapons, or boxers, or soldiers, but with a superior idea, a philosophy of life which will allow the human being to develop normally. Only then, Mr. Speaker, will we be able to fight international or national communism effectively.

We make feeble attempts to establish peace and justice in the world, but we cannot even manage that here in Canada. There is talk of withdrawing our troops from NATO. What good will that do? We actually spend more than \$1.5 billion for national defence. We build war installations which may never be used, at the rate technological changes are happening. That is why I spoke of peashooters a while ago.

Mr. Speaker, of course everybody wants peace and justice, but we will get it only if we take the steps capable of helping us reach those objectives.

We have been a member of NATO for 20 years, and for 10 years there has been talk of a review of our commitment to this organization. And now the Prime minister tells us that we must review our positions, so that NATO will serve for purposes other than military.

A while ago, I heard the leader of the NDP say that we should help the low income people first, in order to fight subversion or economic policies that do not respect the rights of the individual. That is what we should do. However, we have to think first about ourselves.

[Mr. Caouette.]

I just got back from western Canada. The farmers there are in a terrible situation. Several members are unaware of what is going on there. One may see, in some farms, that last year's crop is rotting after remaining all winter under snow, because it could not be stored. Those farmers will never be able to see their wheat. Right now, they have to obtain substantial loans from chartered banks, credit unions, credit co-ops and finance companies, in order to start their spring sowing. They should have another crop next fall and there is still no possibility in sight of selling last year's production.

Mr. Speaker, I agree that there are underdeveloped countries, but the situation in Canada is far from perfect, and the government does not seem to care. It acknowledges the situation and says it is unfortunate.

The Prime Minister, who tells us we should strive to establish peace and justice in the world, went to western Canada some ten days ago and told the farmers: If you have wheat, get out and sell it. Sell it yourselves. That is the domestic policy of this government.

However, we should call the attention of the Canadian people to the underprivileged of this world. Let us withdraw our troops from NATO, totally or partially. Let us reduce our forces and become the promoters of peace and justice all over the world. Mr. Speaker, there are fine promoters for you!

● (5:00 p.m.)

This morning we read in a paper that four million Canadians are underfed at present! They represent 20 per cent of the population of a rich country, teeming with all kinds of things, and the Prime Minister wants us to be the promoters of peace and justice in the world.

Mr. Speaker, there is an inconsistency somewhere. There is a lack of responsibility, of sincerity and of frankness. International problems are discussed in order to divert the attention of the needy in Canada.

Let us reduce our forces to save money! The Prime Minister is fully aware that no savings will be made. However, we are allowed to help under-developed countries.

Mr. Speaker, we have also heard what our responsible government should have done in connection with Biafra, South Africa, the recognition of Red China, etc.

Mr. Speaker, of course we should contribute to and participate in the establishment in the world of a system enabling every human being to live a full life. However, we should