

External Affairs

to support a deal after it has been made, we may at least have some opportunity of indicating the direction or the general lines along which we think negotiations should be conducted.

It is all very well for the secretary of state to use words to imply, as he did yesterday, that the necessity of consultation extends only between governments. As reported at page 3331 of *Hansard*, he said:

I am sure hon. members will agree with me when I say that we want to be let in at the take-off so that we can do our part to help avoid a crash landing.

Mr. Speaker, if that statement applies as between governments which are assuming a joint responsibility in the conduct of international affairs, how much more aptly it applies as between the government and parliament when the government is asking parliament to support it in the foreign policy that it arrives at. I can only hope that the Secretary of State for External Affairs will inform parliament as to the bargaining position in general which is going to be taken by the Canadian delegation so that it will be a case of letting us be in at the take-off so that we can do our part to help avoid a crash landing rather than not being in at the take-off but having to strap ourselves in to minimize, so far as possible, the effects of that crash landing which might otherwise occur.

Mr. Pearson: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. Fulton: Yes.

Mr. Pearson: Does he feel that, as a result of this consultation, the opposition will be willing to accept responsibility for the policy of the government?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, of course I could not answer that question until the minister takes us into his confidence and lets us know in what direction the Canadian foreign policy is tending—

Mr. Drew: And gets away from the ambiguity.

Mr. Fulton:—so we will know whether we should approve it. He cannot very well expect us to give him a blank cheque such as that for which he is asking in those words.

Mr. Pearson: I am not asking for anything.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, may I move the adjournment of the debate?

Mr. Low: Mr. Speaker, now that the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) has moved the adjournment of the debate, perhaps you will allow me to say just a word [Mr. Fulton.]

or two on this motion. It is ten o'clock. I realize that fact. I do not know a thing about what the list of speakers may be; that is, I do not know how many hon. members yet want to speak in this debate. However, it appears to me to be desirable that we hear the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) as soon as we can. Consequently I am going to make to you, Mr. Speaker, the suggestion that we continue to sit and that we give the minister a chance to speak.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Low: I realize that it will take unanimous consent of the members of the house, first, to sit beyond ten o'clock and, second, to allow the minister to speak before the debate has concluded, so that other members who wish to get into the debate will have a chance to speak at a later time. I realize all that. Nevertheless I am suggesting that on both counts I am prepared to give that consent on behalf of my colleagues.

I also want to say this. To me it hardly seems fair that, on January 29, when we had our last debate on external affairs, the Secretary of State for External Affairs did not have a chance to reply. It may be that matters will work out that way this time if he does not have a chance to speak tonight. I am therefore asking my colleagues in the House of Commons to give that consent on both counts so that we can hear the minister in reply.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there will be any lack of desire on the part of any hon. member here to accord such facilities as might be required to deal adequately with this subject. However, there can be no blame attached to any hon. member in the house for the inability of the minister to speak on the earlier occasion or on this occasion, except to the government. This can go on next Monday in an orderly debate in the proper way as it could have gone on on the earlier occasion. As it stands at the moment I submit that this debate should proceed in an orderly way, and I would hope that it will proceed on Monday.

Mr. Pickersgill: I rise on a point of order not related to the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition at all. The hon. member for Kamloops resumed his seat, having completed his speech—

Mr. Fulton: No. On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Pickersgill: May I complete my point of order without being interrupted?