

sense cover so much of the planet. I hope we find some solution to the problems which have been discussed today in the House of Commons by members of all parties. I hope we find some real answers to these questions.

Interestingly enough, on the same afternoon in Penticton, British Columbia, at the provincial convention of the Liberal Party there was an ongoing discussion regarding the whole question of the testing of missiles in Canada and nuclear disarmament. I understand there was hot debate at that particular meeting and that a certain gentleman by the name of Mr. James McIntosh of Richmond countered that the arms race is "like two men standing in a basement up to their ankles in gasoline. One has seven matches and one has nine, and the idiot with the nine matches thinks he is safest". I was glad to hear that the British Columbia Liberal Party sent a strong recommendation to the national government to take into consideration that thought when it sends representatives to the United Nations for the disarmament talks next week.

I am happy that this debate was called today and that it began with the question of human rights. Of course I would have been happier if other countries had been listed in the motion aside from Poland. I do not think anyone in the House of Commons doubts the question of the violation of human rights in Poland, but South Africa and some other countries in Latin America could have been included. Even a closer look at ourselves would provide opportunity for a broader and fairer debate on the question of human rights. One major problem facing the world at the present time is the violation of human rights at all levels in all parts of the world.

During my tenure in the House of Commons, I feel that the two experiences for my part which were the most important was working on the North-South task force and later on the special subcommittee to study Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. These groups consisted of hon. members of all three parties, people with different experiences and people with different perceptions. At the end of the work of both these committees, as the interim report on Latin America and as the report of the task force were brought down, there was unanimous consent on the part of all parties in regard to these two areas. It was a thrilling experience. When we deal with all problems of the planet in areas in which we do not have all that much expertise, the best we can do, if we are to do anything, is to use everything at our disposal to reach a positive conclusion. I think everyone who worked on these committees would agree that we were able to work together on these serious questions. I was fascinated to learn that people from different parts of Canada with varying backgrounds had different perceptions of the same thing. I should like to speak tonight about perceptions—how people see things.

Many members of the House of Commons, whether they like it or not, are about my age. We are all Canadians. Some of us were born in Canada but we have all lived through the same era of history. I was 17 years old when the first atomic bomb was detonated and knew that from that day on the world would never be the same. Something happened that day which

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had never happened before, and from that day on the history of the planet was different. It is fascinating how differently Members of Parliament perceive that event. I feel that we must find a way to get rid of atomic bombs; there is no question about it. Yet, other people seem to think that we need more atomic bombs in order to be safer. I am not questioning their truthfulness, but some people feel that more armament brings greater security and safety. I am not condemning anyone because their perception is different than mine, but I am mentioning this because basically we were all born here and we see things differently.

When we look at this in the context of Canada, we realize that there are many different people in various parts of the land, but when we look outside the country we see how difficult it is to obtain an accurate perception of another reality in another part of the world. Fortunately I had the experience of living for a period of time in Latin America. It was not my fault; it just happened to be part of my life experience. Anyone who has gone to live in another country for a number of years will share the experience I had and know how difficult it was to find out what was going on in Latin America. In the beginning many things were shocking. How could these people see things in that manner? Why could I not see it in the same way? Was I stupid or were they stupid? People who have lived in other countries talk about culture shock, and culture shock is what it is. It literally flattens a person when he cannot find out what is going on some place else. However, after a person lives in another place for a while, begins to speak the language and begins to hear what the people are saying, he begins to realize that they have reasons for looking at things as they do. As I say, members of the House of Commons have different reasons for looking at things in different ways.

Approximately 2½ months ago the main concern was the question of El Salvador. We know that there was deep division on our perception of what was taking place there. Again, I condemn no one's perception, but there was deep division within the House of Commons on the question of El Salvador and what was taking place there. It was difficult—and I am not saying that it was the same for everybody—to understand a complicated reality in a totally different historical and cultural place. That was the question 2½ months ago. Suddenly on April 2 the news changed. El Salvador was more or less forgotten, Central America dropped out, and attention was focused on the southern Atlantic and the Falkland Islands.

Throughout history the people of Latin America have looked upon the Falkland Islands as the Malvinas. From the time they are little children they look upon the islands as part of Argentina. Their perception of the islands is very different than our perception, if anyone knew where they were, that the Falkland Islands are British territory. With this twofold perception there was bound to be a head-on clash.

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It was almost like a medieval play. For a period of four, five or six weeks, they were being drawn closer and closer into