

Human Rights

information for its own citizens would have more credibility in asserting the rights of citizens of other countries. A government prepared to rewrite an outdated and frighteningly vague Official Secrets Act, and to end the use of ill-defined procedures like writs of assistance, will be a stronger voice for human rights in the world. We will take those initiatives.

Second, we will never be quiet about our commitment to the principles of fundamental liberties for all mankind. We will assert that commitment at every opportunity, and back it up with concrete international action. Our government, for example, will be an active, not a passive, supporter of the appointment of a United Nations Commissioner of Human Rights.

Third, we will apply the principles to which all Canadians are committed, openly and consistently. We will not provide Canadian aid to governments guilty of gross violation of human rights, and we will not use agencies like the EDC to do by the back door what we condemn at the front door.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Fourth, we will be both forthright and realistic in our recognition of the motives of the Soviet Union. The kindest thing one can say about this government in relation to the Soviet Union is that it is remarkably naive about the motives of that country.

The Prime Minister's external affairs adviser confesses he would have liked to have kept the lid on the most recent example of Soviet espionage in Canada because he was worried how the Soviet government might react if the people of Canada were told about it. When that same case came to light, the Prime Minister sought to downplay it because he said he was concerned about its impact on our trade with the Soviet Union. And now this week we have our Prime Minister virtually isolated among NATO leaders in his apparent lack of any serious concern about the continuing build-up of Warsaw Pact forces in central Europe.

Canada's national interest is ill-served by such naivete. The Soviet Union will continue to buy our grain and other products because it needs them, and because we are able to supply them at the right time and right price. That is the essence of Soviet commercial policy, and no amount of pussy-footing around on spies or human rights will change it. As for the Soviet build-up in central Europe and its expanding activity in Africa, what is required of Canada and all NATO countries is not to turn a blind eye, but to respond forcefully and effectively, as proposed by President Carter and President Giscard d'Estaing.

Finally, and most important, we will make our commitment to human rights a legitimate priority in formulating Canadian foreign policy, as is the case in the United States.

I began with references to the Bill of Rights. The principles set forth so eloquently by the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert in the Bill of Rights are real. They embody the most essential beliefs of our society, of our very *raison d'être* as a nation, and Canadians have a right to expect that these real principles have real meaning in the policies of their government.

[Mr. Clark.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) for his generous words concerning myself. At the same time, I express my fear at the number of ministers who are here this afternoon of a government as multitudinous as the sands of the sea, a cabinet that has been multiplied in numbers.

A matter is before the House of transcendent interest to all who believe in freedom, and the total number of ministers present is three. That indicates the attitude of this government and the degree to which fundamental freedoms have been undermined, to an extent never before known in my day, and I have been here for a long while. A number of examples were set forth by the Leader of the Opposition.

Where is Canada going? That question is in the hearts and minds of Canadians everywhere today. What about human rights and fundamental freedoms? What about international rights set out in agreements solemnly entered into by the U.S.S.R., and as solemnly disregarded? It is that I am going to speak about in particular today.

I simply want to make a general reference to an honour that came to me. The Leader of the Opposition made reference to an honorary degree from the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, Germany, a university composed of men and women who, in the interests of freedom, have been forced out of their own countries and are endeavouring to keep alive the fire of freedom.

I want to mention particularly Dr. W. Yaniw, the Rector, and Dr. Sakaluk, the Pro-Rector, who came to Saskatoon for the purpose of joining in that award which, of the many I have received throughout the years, none has touched me more deeply.

From the time that we went to western Canada to the Northwest Territories, in 1903, to Carlton, I saw something of the injustice being done to those of racial origin other than the two basic races. I saw shocking examples of discrimination on the basis of race and colour. I determined when I was only ten or 11 that I would devote my life to bringing an end in this nation to discrimination on the basis of race, colour, or otherwise.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I saw the Indian ill treated. We lived on the old Carlton-Edmonton Swan River-Winnipeg trail. The Red River carts were still moving by, not in large caravans, but five or six in line. We saw people who came from Continental Europe being treated in a way that was as unjust as it was unChristian.

Each one of us has in his or her heart something that no one else has, something placed there by the Almighty, it must be. They will be a minority who follow that something. Ultimately the minority will become a majority if what is being undertaken and tried is for the welfare of people in general.