

U.S. Invasion of Cambodia

has had an effect on that country on almost every issue possible. It has divided families, it has divided communities, it has split the generations.

I think some of the speeches we heard in the House today have emphasized the rift between the generations in their interpretation of the Vietnamese war. The reply that the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) made to my suggestion that the United States withdraw from Viet Nam was, I think, a good example of the different interpretations of the two generations. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) sometimes understands the feelings of most people in the younger generation, judging from some of the things he said today.

People of my generation throughout Canada and the United States feel very strongly about this war for a number of reasons. People of my generation are going into the jungles in Southeast Asia and are dying there. Many of them do not know why they are going in, why they have to die, or even what the cause may be, and many people in my generation do not like the attitude that is so conspicuously evident in speeches like the one given by the right hon. member for Prince Albert or, as a matter of fact, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), Vice-President Agnew or President Nixon.

This type of speech suggests that we are continuing on in the same old world in which we have been living for so long, a world that has placed humanity on the brink of disaster, a world that has produced the types of weapon that can destroy us in a matter of minutes, a world that on both sides seems to be emphasizing military might rather than the importance of sitting down and trying to rationalize and discuss our problems. I suggest that the most recent American intervention in Cambodia will do nothing but escalate the possibility of even more insecurity and the possibility of an all-out war not only in Asia but perhaps even around the world.

• (5:10 p.m.)

It is with great anxiety, concern, frustration and anger that I rise to say a few words in this debate. There is a lot of fear around the world, no matter which continent you are looking at; and all members here, I think, share the same concern over what has been happening in Cambodia. That does not mean that we are anti-American or anti-anything. You can look at the press clippings which

[Mr. Nystrom.]

have appeared in the last few hours and see that members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives are condemning the President of the United States for intervening in Indo-China. I should like to quote briefly from one or two such clippings. Senator Frank Church, a Democrat from Idaho said, "This is just a first step of a new set of obligations. It can only lead us to a deeper mess and to the borders of China." Senator Church is a member of the foreign relations committee which will meet today for the second successive day to consider the Cambodian situation and give the presidential speech its first thorough scrutiny.

Mr. Pepin: The hon. member's argument does not make much sense.

Mr. Nystrom: I see the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) is again interjecting. May I remind him that all people of his generation do not look on the Viet Nam war as he does. The leader of my party, the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) and many Senators of the United States and members of Congress have spoken out against the United States policy in Viet Nam. I am sorry the minister cannot see it this way. If he did, perhaps he might influence his leader and the Secretary of State for External Affairs to adopt a different position in this whole matter.

Mr. Pepin: If it is a question of age, lets get the age of everybody who has spoken on the subject.

Mr. Nystrom: May I continue? The committee to which I referred will also consider a proposal by Senator Church and Senator John Sherman Cooper that would cut off funds for American military or civilian personnel in Cambodia and also ban the furnishing of military aid to the new Cambodian government. Senator William Proxmire called the President's decision a tragic mistake and said, "We are going into the same sad mistake that we went into in Viet Nam." I could quote many statements showing that both Democrats and Republicans in the United States Congress condemn the action of President Nixon.

This brings me to a number of reasons as to why we as Canadians and Canadian parliamentarians ought to be concerned about what is happening in Viet Nam. It appears that the President of the United States once again has listened to his generals and sent troops into Cambodia. His troops now are 20