

world or the issuing of war propaganda and we are surely not justified in taking advantage of that fact to have the Canadian electors believe that war is inevitable.

I wish to point out that during the last world war, Ireland—which is located close to England—remained neutral and Ireland was not flouted by the world for that reason. In fact, it has now secured its republic status and regained its complete independence. Today, Ireland is given the same treatment as Canada, England and the United States. Ireland is absolutely independent and the day Canada secures its independence many thorns will be removed from our fingers and our feet, and we shall have regained the liberty to which we are entitled.

Mr. Speaker, peace and happiness cannot be obtained through war. When we are told that our nation must defend itself if attacked, we understand this and need not be told repeatedly. His Holiness Pope Pius XII never said: "If we want peace, prepare for war" but, "If you want peace, prepare for peace." If you organize war, you will have war. Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. When we sow potatoes, we surely do not reap green peas.

Mr. Speaker, we, the Union of Electors of the province of Quebec, are in favour of neutrality. We are against war propaganda and against conscription in all its forms, whether disguised or open. If it is claimed that the war aims are valid or logical, we should have the necessary proof, and in that event we shall immediately recognize the logic of a declaration of war.

If the Union of Electors is against war in the province of Quebec, if it is against conscription and in favour of neutrality it is because it has at heart the best interests of the whole Canadian people. Peace and happiness are not brought about by slaughter. The world will not secure them if the nations fight each other, as happened in the last world war, or if Christian forces are arrayed one against the other for the safeguarding of peace.

Mr. Speaker, such rumours of conscription and war which are going around throughout Canada should stop as soon as possible and the talk should rather be about the establishment of an equitable and enduring peace. It should be about the establishment of social justice and the guaranteeing to all citizens the security and freedom to which they are

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entitled, through the application of the principles of the great social credit doctrine.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

(Text):

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, at the outset of my remarks this evening I must confess that I propose to deal with a hodgepodge of subjects, some five in number. They will be atomic energy, veterans affairs, the need for a Canadian policy in the Pacific, the need for clarification of the government's steel policy, and the Canadian merchant marine and our shipbuilding industry. You will realize that they are not subjects which are connected, but the reason I bring them up this evening is that I hope the government will take action on each one of these questions before the session is very much older. I fear that if there is delay in placing them before the house there may be no action forthcoming from the government during the earlier days of the session. In other words, there is an element of urgency about all these questions.

First of all may I deal with atomic energy. In the session of 1946 the House of Commons passed an act which set up the atomic energy control board. Hon. members will recall that very wide powers were given to that board. They will also recall that a great deal of money has been voted for the work of the board, and a great deal of money is to be voted each year. Furthermore it is well for us to remember that atomic energy may be of the utmost importance in the national life of Canada, in the development of our nation. It may be the greatest factor in the development of Canada in the years that lie ahead.

When the bill was brought in in 1946 I suggested to the minister, who is now the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), that there should be set up in Canada a watchdog committee which would keep in touch with the activities of the atomic energy control board. That stand was approved by the leaders of the C.C.F. and Social Credit parties. At the time the minister made a statement, which is to be found at page 2401 of *Hansard* of 1946, and reads as follows:

I dare say that, as developments proceed, it may be desirable to have committees, and perhaps a standing committee of this house on problems of atomic energy may be warranted; I do not think that is so at the moment. We should obtain more experience in the work of atomic energy before a standing committee is established.