

from perfect it is the most promising organization on the horizon today for the promotion of world peace.

As a delegate to that body, I had freedom to express my own opinions, but by agreement those of us who were not members of the Government did not attend meetings at which money questions were being discussed and voted on.

I should like to make a brief reference to the matter of credit buying, and to remind honourable senators of the steps taken some five years ago by the Honourable Douglas Abbott, then Minister of Finance, to restrict credit arrangements. Statistics published recently indicate that as of the end of September this year there was some \$1,885 million worth of credit outstanding in this country. Buying was tremendously heavy during the Christmas season in my home city of Winnipeg, and I presume it was so in other cities, but the greater part of it was on a time-payment plan. This seems to me to create a false economy, and what the result may be if we run into more difficult times, I do not know. I believe the time has come when some restrictions should be imposed to prevent such heavy credit buying.

In a notice of motion tonight the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) referred to the ratification of the agreement made between Germany and the NATO countries having to do with the European situation. As I see it, the world is no more secure today than it was a year ago, and we cannot afford to relax our efforts to maintain peace. The recent incident in the French Assembly illustrates the delicacy of the problem in that part of the world. We in Canada should therefore be very clear in our course of action when we face the question of ratification of the agreement.

I may be anticipating what some honourable senators may say on this subject, but I believe no nation in the world today, not even the United States or Great Britain, has a greater responsibility than has Canada in deciding what treatment shall be accorded Germany with respect to her place among other nations. In the eyes of other countries Canada is a nation without ambition for world power. In saying that I am not criticizing the United States or Great Britain, for I am well aware of the magnificent fight those two nations have put up over the past ten years to meet the threat of domination by Russia. Without them, I dare not guess what might have happened. But now Canada has her own part to play along with the other nations in deciding whether Germany should be rearmed.

Those of us who were in this chamber on September 9, 1939, will recall vividly how member after member stood up and voted on the question of whether we should go to war with Germany. Although we knew that a decision to go to war meant that the sons or other relatives of many of us would go overseas and that some might not come back, there was not a dissenting vote.

That decision having been made, we later turned to the question of whether we should ally ourselves with Russia in her fight against Germany. We knew we were a small factor in the battle between those two giant nations, but there was not one of us who did not feel, rightly or wrongly, that we should maintain a united front against the German military machine. And in the end the United States and Great Britain with Canada's help were able to defeat the strong German forces.

We now face a new problem, and in that too Canada must take her stand. I am again reminded of an experience during my visit to the United Nations. A delegate from Iran approached me and asked if I was a Canadian, and when I told him I was he invited me to come out after lunch and have a talk with him. His first question to me was, "Are you afraid of the United States?" I replied that we were not, and added that while we did not always see eye to eye with that country on every detail, as neighbours we were truthful with each other, trusted each other to keep its word, and got along together well. It is for that reason, I said, that we hold up our hands in favour of United States' policies which we feel we can support through the United Nations.

Those of our citizens who lost relatives and friends during the last war feel very bitter about the proposed rearmament of Germany, and I can quite understand why they would have that feeling. I am reminded of a remark my son made to me after he returned from service as a pilot in that war. I asked him, "Doug, when you were taking off from the runway in your plane carrying six tons of bombs to drop on Germany, what were you thinking about?" His answer, I think, was significant. He said, "I thanked God that my mother and dad were safe, because I knew that I might well kill a good many mothers and dads with the bombs I was to drop."

I feel very strongly that if we do not have Germany on our side we will see her absorbed into the Russian family. It is a bitter choice we have to make, but I believe the majority of the thinking people in this country are in favour of our backing up the treaty to