

We were not alone in our attendance at this meeting of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. The delegation included members of the other house. Accompanying His Honour the Speaker, were the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Flynn), the Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs (Hon. Mr. Aird), and I, as Leader of the Government in the Senate. We, together with our colleagues from the House of Commons, formed an observer parliamentary group from Canada. The other house was represented by Honourable Donald S. Macdonald, the President of the Privy Council; Mr. Gerald W. Baldwin, the Opposition House Leader; Mr. Judd Buchanan, Member of Parliament and a member of the External Affairs and National Defence Committee of the Commons. Two years ago Mr. Macdonald, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, had gone to the Consultative Assembly as an observer. Last year members from the Senate and House of Representatives in the United States were invited to go before the Assembly and take part in the deliberations of that body.

The Council of Europe, which has established its seat in Strasbourg, on the Franco-German frontier, is the oldest and largest political organization in Western Europe dedicated to European unification. It was set up by ten countries in 1949, and today has 18 members and is made up of 147 parliamentarians.

It was Sir Winston Churchill, leading the fight for the preservation of the peace of Europe and the peace of the world who, in his desire to make a contribution to the unity of Europe, said of the Congress of Europe in 1948:

A high and a solemn responsibility rests upon us here this afternoon in this Congress of a Europe striving to be reborn. If we allow ourselves to be rent and disordered by pettiness and small disputes, if we fail in clarity of view or courage in action, a priceless occasion may be cast away for ever. But if we all pull together and pool the luck and the comradeship—and we shall need all the comradeship and not a little luck if we are to move together in this way—and firmly grasp the larger hopes of humanity, then it may be that we shall move into a happier sunlit age when all the little children who are now growing up in

this tormented world may find themselves not the victors nor the vanquished in the fleeting triumphs of one country over another in the bloody turmoil of destructive war, but the heirs of all the treasures of the past and the masters of all the science, the abundance and the glories of the future.

So we found ourselves in the parliament of this Council of Europe, a council in which those words of Winston Churchill had been used 20 years ago, where members of parliament from 20 countries, representing all shades of political opinion in national parliaments, sit alphabetically—a socialist sitting next to a liberal, perhaps next to a social democrat from Germany, a member of the conservative party, even a member of the government of the United Kingdom sitting next to him and so on, with foreign ministers, prime ministers, taking part in the debates.

We will remember the afternoon when Willy Brandt, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Germany, was interrogated on various aspects of his foreign policy, not only by members of his own delegation but by members from other European nations. Nor will we in the Canadian delegation forget, as we sat together in an honoured place on a Wednesday, the questions that were put to each and every one of us on several aspects of Canadian foreign and domestic policy. It was open, and indeed the opportunity was taken, to members of the Canadian delegation to express views that were not always in harmony with particular Canadian positions. There was a discussion of our NATO policy, and the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Flynn) did not hesitate to make known how he felt about that policy. There were discussions on aspects of Canadian economic matters. Nor was there complete unanimity in this area.

Of course I have had no connection at all with this Council of Europe, but as one who has had much to do over the years with the United Nations and with NATO, and with the efforts through international organizations to build a more orderly world, I was impressed with the Council of Europe.

Certainly Europe is the centre where peace must finally begin if there is to be peace in the world. Certainly if there is to be European unity, it will come through organizations such as the European Consultative Assembly. At present Europeans are directing their attention to European unity and stability. This is confirmed by the Budapest declaration. I