

*North Atlantic Treaty*

dirty fingers in the pie, and that there is no doubt whatever about the exact meaning and all the implications of the terms of the final form of the pact they will bring back to this house for ratification.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that we are prepared to work with all our might for the ostensible motives of the pact, and we pray God that the ostensible ones are the real ones. But we are not prepared to work for any hidden designs of international plotters who may be concealed behind a smoke screen. We propose to demand and elicit from all the ministers responsible for bringing this instrument before the house, not only statements of clarification but also commitments of clarification. We Social Crediters, Mr. Speaker, are unanimously prepared to support the resolution. We are prepared to vote for the wood-pile, but not to commit ourselves to any niggers there may be under it.

**Mr. J. A. Bradette (Cochrane):** Mr. Speaker, I believe it is considered an honour for a member of parliament to have the opportunity of speaking after the four leaders of the various parties in this House of Commons. That honour carries with it, however, a certain amount of handicap. I am starting my remarks, therefore, in all humility, realizing the magnitude of the subject under discussion.

I should like to express the opinions which I believe are widely held by what we call the common people. I am speaking because in the spring of 1946 this parliament established, for the first time in the history of our country, a permanent committee on external affairs. I was given the heavy responsibility of being its chairman. I must say at this point that I was greatly aided in discharging my responsibility by the efforts of the vice-chairman of that committee, the member for Peel (Mr. Graydon), as well as by the efforts of every member of the committee. I believe this is the moment to pay those gentlemen the tribute they deserve.

The government also found it possible to send me as a delegate to the United Nations deliberations at Lake Success and Flushing Meadows in the fall of 1947.

Before proceeding any further, I should like to say that I believe this debate this afternoon has shown our Canadian democratic parliamentary system at its best. When you find the leaders of the four parties expressing unanimity in their views on this Atlantic pact, it speaks well for the democratic system. I have seen this house in a different mood and, to my way of thinking, those moods were not typical of what the Canadian people expect from their national

forum. If the Canadian people had been able to see and hear the proceedings in the house today, the statement made by the Prime Minister, followed by statements from the leader of the opposition, the leaders of the C.C.F. and Social Credit parties, they would have been highly elated.

This pact is so important and so fateful that it is surprising to witness the almost disinterested silence. It is not disinterested silence, however, because Canada has felt throughout her history that the great north country and the two oceans on either side formed an effective barrier against aggression but for the last forty years that security disappeared. In 1914 the Canadian people almost unanimously realized that there was war in Austria and that Canada would become immediately concerned. The same principle applied just as forcibly and perhaps even more forcibly in the year 1939, when Canada again went to the defence of the democratic system, the thing we cherished most. We knew some of our people must again participate martially in the different parts of the world.

No doubt the Atlantic pact is a great peacetime step. It is all the more striking when we consider the great part the United States has played in its formulation and propagation. When one considers the Monroe doctrine one realizes that it is a great change in her diplomatic history. The North Atlantic pact now being considered by the United States government vividly illustrates the difference between the two post-war Americas of this century. An agreement that is more specific in many instances than the old league of nations covenant thirty years ago is scarcely causing a ripple of public opinion. The people of the United States, however, are just as deeply moved when the Atlantic pact is applied to the civilized peoples of the world.

The United States is suffering from a situation that originated in Europe. Who will dare to say, following the foolish statements and advertising of the communist party in Canada and the communist party in the United States that the United States wants war? Why would the citizens of the United States desire war? It is the wealthiest and strongest country in the world. There is no desire for war amongst the people of the United States, no matter to what section of the country they belong, for the very reason that they thought a kind Providence had protected them. Most of these people are of British descent, but later they were reinforced by people from every section of central and southern Europe. They have one of the finest heritages ever given to a body of men. Those fine people never realized that the Monroe doctrine was