

man is saying these things to nations whose policies we despise.

Peace conferences have been held in our own country. One was held in the city of Winnipeg. I guess it is no better than any other city in that respect. The Red Dean of Canterbury attended that conference and made speeches; and while I believe in the freedom of speech, I was strongly tempted to make trouble at that meeting.

We remember well the sacrifices made in World War I. At that time we had enjoyed a hundred years or more of peace and did not know the horrors of war. World War II broke out and our young men and women, fully aware that they were going to the worst torment on earth, joined the forces on behalf of freedom. Freedom of worship is Canada's basic freedom. It is better demonstrated here than in any other country, for here two great races, one largely Protestant and the other Roman Catholic, have lived together in peace and mutual respect for eighty-three years.

All of us have read about the trials in Hungary and Bulgaria. I do not know whether the verdict in the Cardinal's case was right or wrong, but his trial was a farce. The same must be said of the proceedings against Protestant clergymen in Bulgaria. The statement that we are guilty of aggressive intentions against Russia, whether made by our own people in Canada or by others elsewhere, is utterly devoid of truth.

We do not want war with Russia or any of her satellites. We are not anxious for a recurrence of the dark days of 1940, when we who were members of this chamber came here day by day oppressed with the feeling that we stood on the edge of an abyss in which the free nations might be engulfed for centuries. We went through that struggle and we do not want another. We may dislike the ideology which rules in Russia, we may pity those who suffer under it; but we have nothing but disgust for Canadians who declare, in direct contradiction to the facts, that we are contriving an attack on those people. I take this opportunity of protesting against propaganda of that kind.

The Progressive Conservative party in this chamber and in every part of Canada stands four-square behind the Atlantic Pact. I congratulate the present Prime Minister of Canada on the distinguished part he played in initiating action for the making of this agreement; and whether or not he continues in his present office after the election, his advocacy of the Atlantic Pact will be one of the greatest achievements of his life. Canadian Liberals and Conservatives join wholeheartedly in acclaiming the pact. I do not deny that the Dominion leaders of the Co-operative

Commonwealth Federation also are strong supporters of the agreement, but I regret that in our western provinces there is an element that does not believe in it, and I think the party should rid itself of that element. One of their representatives in the Manitoba Legislature—the member, I believe, for East Kildonan—made a broadcast on C.C.F. time in which he condemned the pact and American action in organizing it; but he was not read out of the party, as he should have been. It is agitation of this kind in Manitoba and Western Canada generally that I protest against. As far as our party is concerned, we shall vote unanimously for the motion; and I suggest that the leader of the government invite us to demonstrate our belief in the North Atlantic Treaty by a standing vote. We support it, not as a means of aggression but as an instrument of freedom and peace.

**Hon. T. A. Crerar:** Honourable senators, there will be no difference of opinion in this chamber as to what course we should take with respect to the motion that is now before the house. At the same time we should be conscious of the obligations which Canada is assuming under this treaty. There is no other course for us to follow in the light of conditions as they exist in the world today. But let us not forget that by adopting this motion we assume responsibilities for Canada such as would not have been even contemplated three years ago. It is a matter of pride to us all that in the eighty-two years since Confederation was achieved Canada has grown to a position which enables her to occupy an important and honoured place in these great international transactions.

I am not among those who think that the mere signing of the North Atlantic Treaty will resolve the differences which exist in the world today. Those differences have their roots far down in two different conceptions of life and of the place of man upon this planet. No one will differ with me, I am sure, when I say that the greatest impact upon the world in all its history was made by the Christian ethic. The Christian faith, as taught by its Founder, placed emphasis upon human personality; it dignified the human soul; and thereby it was the source from which has developed down through the centuries our conceptions of freedom and liberty and the right of the individual under the law to live his own life so long as he does no hurt to his neighbour. I repeat that from that great conception stemmed all the humanitarian and liberal ideals which have engendered the tremendous progress made by western civilization in the intervening centuries.

About one hundred years ago that conception was challenged by ideas promulgated by