

in this new era I should hope that if the United Nations Society were to ask the government for a contribution—even a fairly good-sized one—to get started in its work, the request would receive sympathetic consideration. Surely an expenditure of this kind is as nothing when compared with what we have spent on the war. Surely its purpose is one which commends itself to all of us.

I turn now to another thought which impressed itself upon me most forcibly while I was in the United Kingdom. As hon. members know, it was my privilege to be there for more than three months. During that time I had an opportunity not only to learn something about the work of UNO, but also to make extensive contacts with members of parliament and of the government of that country. I had, too, an opportunity to rub shoulders with the English people themselves, and for a few delightful days with the people of Scotland.

May I say as forcibly as I can that although I feel keenly about Canadian citizenship and although I am one who insists that Canada's position within the British commonwealth should be one of clear independence, nevertheless I insist that as Canadians we should recognize the significant place in this era of human history now being filled by the British people and their government. A good deal has already been said in the debate, and I imagine more will be said, about the present conflict in the world among various ideologies. Sometimes it is assumed that the choice ahead is one between the ideology represented by the Soviet Union and that represented by the United States of America. But that is not the complete picture. Despite the political differences hon. members may have with me and members of my group, I appeal to them to realize that the success of those things all of us hold most dear in our democratic way—and I mean by that an adherence to the principles of democracy and freedom, together with a determined effort to improve the lot of the common people—depends very largely upon the success of the experiment upon which the British people have embarked under the leadership of the government they have recently chosen. Having said this, it seems almost unnecessary for me to suggest that I will give wholehearted support to the loan to Great Britain. But I point out that we must go farther than that—and here again I address myself not only to the government but to hon. members generally. We can do a good deal in the way of moulding public opinion and public attitudes throughout Canada. I urge the strongest possible support for what the British people are doing in this reconstruc-

[Mr. Knowles.]

tion period. They are putting into their post-war task the same vigour and determination they displayed during the period of the war, and they deserve all the support and good will we can give them. Indeed, they are once again fighting our battle.

I was impressed by the calibre of the men who are in the government over there and by the calibre of the members of parliament. I was impressed, too, by the attitude of the British people. Life is grim in the United Kingdom, as others can bear witness to; yet the way in which the people are taking the continued austerity with which they are faced, and their determination to pull through to the achievement of a new Britain, convince those of us who have been there that Britain will yet give a real lead to the world in terms of a new era. I call for all-out support on the part of the Canadian people for what the British people are doing under the leadership of their new government. Our connection with them is one of which we can be very proud, and I believe that will be even more true in the years that lie ahead.

I should like to turn to another subject which I feel is important in terms of Canadian foreign policy. I urge that Canada should take definite steps—before I am through I shall suggest some of the steps that I have in mind—looking toward the achievement of positive and friendly relations with the Soviet Union. I am fully conscious of the atmosphere in which one must make such a proposal at the present time; yet all I am doing is going on from where the Prime Minister left off last night. The house will recall that at the end of his speech not only did he deplore any suggestion as to the severing of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union; he said that he himself was prepared and anxious to do everything he could to establish and maintain the friendliest possible relations with all peoples, and then he added, in particular with the peoples of the Soviet Union. I only wish the last part of the Prime Minister's speech could be publicized in the U.S.S.R.

As the house knows, it was my privilege a few short weeks ago to make a brief visit to Moscow. I went, of course, entirely on my own. I went because my experiences in London from the time the preparatory commission first convened in November strengthened my realization that understanding between the Soviet Union and the western world is one of the things most fundamentally needed in our era if we are to achieve peace and if we are to build the united nations into the effective instrument we want it to be. So I