

Mr. BRACKEN: In connection with matters of this kind, I hope this session of parliament will give more adequate consideration to the clarification of Canada's foreign policy. In the past too little time and attention has been devoted to this subject. We on this side of the house regard it as of vital importance that Canada's foreign policy should be free from partisan considerations. To use a word coined by Senator Vandenberg, it should be "unpartisan." For that reason I commend the action of the government in sending non-partisan delegations to each of several united nations gatherings in the last couple of years.

I welcome this opportunity of lending my support to the statement recently made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs dealing with Canadian representation at the German peace conference. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has made available to the members of the house Canada's statement on the German peace settlement. In this connection I wish to raise one point and ask one question. In several paragraphs of this document reference is made to responsibility by those outside Germany. I refer specifically, first, to paragraph 23, which says:

A measure of international control is necessary in German industrial areas such as the Ruhr, in order to prevent German industry from gaining sufficient strength to lay the foundations for future aggressive policies.

This is in the tentative statement forwarded by this government. Paragraph 25 states this:

It would not be possible to abandon allied control of industries in special areas of Germany, such as the Ruhr, until Germany, after a period of years, had acquired a new understanding of her responsibility for the prosperity of Europe as a whole.

My question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs is this: Based on these and other sections of the memorandum, is Canada's government prepared to see that Canada will back up its request for more effective participation in these proceedings by furnishing the men and the money that such responsibility entails?

In the past we have heard much talk in this country about our rights, without recognizing the responsibilities that go with rights. When we ask for a place in the world settlement it is incumbent upon the government to make clear what responsibilities the government of Canada is prepared to assume. In connection with these special proposals perhaps the government, through a suitable minister, will make a statement.

Having said that, let me speak further with respect to Canada's right to effective participation in the peace settlement. Any retreat

[Mr. Graydon.]

by this government or parliament from the position taken by Sir Robert Borden at Versailles would be an indignity which this country is not prepared to accept. It was for this reason that, when a few days ago the Secretary of State for External Affairs mentioned what he had done in connection with these German meetings, I immediately approved his action. Anyone who has read of the work of Sir Robert Borden, one of the architects of our nationhood, at the Versailles peace conference, and prior thereto, will recognize that we are confronted with an almost identical position today. At page 890 of his memoirs Sir Robert says this:

To provide that Canada should be called in only when her special interests were involved would be little better than a mockery.

In a memorandum to Lloyd George dated May 6, 1919, Sir Robert wrote this:

Canada is asked to make way for all these states except when effort and sacrifice are demanded; then, but not till then, is accorded full and even prior representation. She is to be in the first line of the battle, but not even in the back seat of the council.

Our soldiers, Mr. Speaker, in the first world war won for the people of Canada representation at the peace conference in 1919. Had it not been for the part our armed forces played in this war there might not be an allied peace table to sit around today—or we might be sitting at the other end of it.

Canada is a small country. Since we are a country with only twelve million people we must not therefore take ourselves too seriously in a world of two thousand million people. I think it is not inappropriate, however, that we remind those of the Big Four who make policies of the part we played.

Is it unbecoming to remind the larger powers also that we entered the late war at least eighteen months before one of those powers entered it, and at a time when that power was still an ally of Germany? We entered the war a full twenty-seven months before another of the big powers was treacherously attacked, and then entered the war. Moreover, while one of the big powers was prostrate before the conqueror, our boys showed their valour at Dieppe, and later they spearheaded the attack which led to her salvation.

It is not unbecoming therefore that we should point out to them what we have contributed by ways of gifts, mutual aid, loans, foodstuffs and materials of war, and in other ways to three of the Big Four. We must never let it be said of us who have the privilege of sitting in this house that the international dignity and prestige which