

are not all of one common stock. Here in Canada are millions of French descent, whilst in South Africa the majority is in fact of Dutch origin. Moreover, India and the colonial territories of the empire have from the first day taken their place at our side. When, therefore, all is measured, there has been no more striking, no more inspiring episode in human history than this free and spontaneous action by all the peoples of the British empire.

Do hon. members think that such spontaneous, concerted action on the part of free, sovereign nations as referred to by Mr. Eden is worth preserving in a world such as this? Do hon. members believe that the will to concerted spontaneity of action in the common interest can be preserved and protected by a patent attempt to bring about peace through centralization of power maintained by force? We in this group are anxious to preserve the spirit which has drawn members of the commonwealth together time after time throughout our history, a spirit of concerted action which has saved the world on more than one occasion. It is because of the leading and glorious role which Canada has played within the commonwealth that I believe Canada should now take the lead in questioning the whole basis of the united nations charter. Britain is in no position to do so, and no other nation is in so good a position for the task as is Canada.

This, Mr. Speaker, is no narrow political issue. It is a matter which concerns the lives and happiness of hundreds of millions of human beings. It is a matter upon which the whole future of this country, yes, of the whole world, depends. I have placed the facts as I see them before the house, and in doing so I have discharged my duty. This group cannot give its unqualified support to the charter in its present form. Yet we earnestly desire to see a charter brought forward which will ensure genuine international cooperation, and which will hold out genuine promise of peace in the world. We want to see a charter which gives complete and unhampered opportunity for the kind of spontaneous and voluntary concerted action, under God, in the common cause that has been at once the foremost character, and the major secret of the endurance of the British empire through the storms of the centuries.

I have repeatedly stated that if the people know the truth the people generally will take the right action. I am satisfied, however, that the people of this country do not know the situation with respect to the united nations charter. They have not had an opportunity of learning; and in order that they may have a full opportunity of finding out for themselves, and thereafter, of directing this house on what its duty should be, in the light of all circum-

stances, I move an amendment, seconded by the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore):

That the resolution be amended (a) by inserting after the word "that" where it first appears in the resolution the word "before"; and (b) by inserting after the figures "1945" the words: "it is desirable that an educational campaign for a period of one month be conducted throughout Canada by allotting on the transcanada network of the CBC abundant, free, and equal time to those in this house who oppose the charter in its present form, and those who support it, so that the Canadian people may have the fullest possible opportunity to study the proposal, and in the light of their matured judgment, to express their will as a guide to the houses of parliament."

Mr. COLDWELL: May I ask the hon. member a question? He made it appear that the delegates at San Francisco were unmindful of the influence of religion. He is aware, of course, that all the religions of the world were represented, each referring to its Divine Being in different terms. Is he aware that on the first Sunday of the meeting of the united nations at San Francisco great religious demonstrations were held by all the great religious denominations, praying for divine guidance in the drafting of this charter; so that while the charter is silent, the delegates who were there cannot be accused of neglecting to recognize the great Supreme Authority of the universe.

Mr. LOW: Mr. Speaker, I submit that the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart could not possibly read into what I said any imputation of the kind which he has suggested.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. LOW: I am answering the question.

Mr. COLDWELL: You are quite right.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart asked for permission to ask a question. He has asked the question, and the hon. member for Peace River may answer.

Mr. LOW: I am perfectly aware that the delegates who went from Canada, and perhaps those who went from other countries—I do not know so much about them as I do about our delegates—are men who are devout, and I give them credit for being sincere Christians. I do not question that for a moment; but what I did say, sir, and what I did try to emphasize, is that there is, either in the charter itself or—and this is the more serious, it seems to me—in the wording of the resolution that is before the house, no mention whatever of our dependence upon divine guidance.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Explain that away.