

*North Atlantic Treaty*

in continuous session, just as the security council of the United Nations is in continuous session.

I want to assure you, however, that it will not mean that the foreign ministers will be in continuous session at the North Atlantic council and away from their homes. What it may mean is that the authority of the deputies who now constitute a subordinate body will have to be increased so we will have something like continuous sessions where the representatives present will have sufficient authority to take action on behalf of their governments. This again is a decision which cannot be reached easily or hurriedly by governments. In Rome we were certainly not at a point where we could all agree on that.

I mention these things merely to show that we are not neglecting the implementation of article 2. We are not unaware of the importance of forms of co-operation other than military.

The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low) indicated in his interesting contribution to the discussion that he was worried to some extent because people in this country were not aware of the full implications of what we are doing. I agree that one of the important tasks ahead of the NATO organization is providing for public information. That was one of the subjects we discussed in the committee of five, and it is one to which we are giving a great deal of attention. As this international organization develops we do not want to give the impression that we are working behind the scenes. If we do not have public opinion behind us in this development we will not succeed. It seems to me to be the part of elementary wisdom that we let our people know everything we possibly can about what we are doing and what we are trying to do. I assure the house that that is very much in the mind of the Canadian government.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that this is all I can say at this time in regard to this matter. However before I sit down perhaps I might say one word on the general situation as I found it in Europe after a visit of some weeks to the United Nations assembly, to the NATO council and a week or ten days in London. I would hesitate very much to toss off an *ex cathedra* opinion on a subject of such transcendental importance as the peace of the world.

**Mr. Fulton:** So long as you do not claim infallibility, it will be all right.

**Mr. Pearson:** I certainly do not claim that. The impression I brought back—I think the same impression was also in the minds of others who came back with me, such as the

[Mr. Pearson.]

Secretary of State of the United States—was that there has been no deterioration in the situation over the last year. To put it at its lowest, the gap has not widened and we are holding our own. If you can get much comfort out of that, you are entitled to it. However, we will not continue to hold our own unless we build up, as we are trying to do, our collective strength. With all its disappointments and apparent setbacks, there can be no agency more effective for that purpose than the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We are making that organization stronger, not only militarily—military strength has never provided a permanent foundation for peace—but also politically. We are building up an association of states who are willing to work together in peace and who, if they have to, will work and fight together in war. We are getting stronger and that strength has increased and will increase with the membership of Greece and Turkey in our organization. That strength is for defence alone, that strength is for negotiation. It is not for anything else no matter what the enemies of peace may say. We are putting power behind peace. We are doing that, however, in the knowledge that peace ultimately must rest on something greater even than power.

Motion agreed to.

**THE ROYAL ASSENT**

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber.

In the Senate chamber, the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in His Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

An act to amend the Combines Investigation Act.  
An act to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939.

An act to provide for privileges and immunities in respect of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

An act to amend the Public Works Act.

To these bills the royal assent was pronounced by the Clerk of the Senate in the following words:

In His Majesty's name the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General doth assent to these bills.

**PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT**

After which the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the fifth session of the