

North Atlantic Treaty

agreement. May I say that I thoroughly agree that it is important that our economic life shall be secure and that our level of employment and of rewards for labour in every field, agriculture, fishing, mining and all the rest of it, shall be maintained at a high peak; otherwise those who wish to undermine our democratic institutions and our democratic way of life will be given an opportunity to do so.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in resuming my seat I want to say with all the emphasis I can command and without equivocation or mental reservation that the C.C.F. party in this house and in Canada is solidly behind the North Atlantic pact, and I hope that our vote will demonstrate it tonight.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): I feel that I have little to add to what I said in this house when the North Atlantic pact was being discussed here on March 28. However, I regret that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) is not here. I quite realize, as the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) said earlier today, that it was necessary that the minister should be in London. It is unfortunate that that has to be so at this time, because when the North Atlantic pact was being discussed on March 28 I indicated in so many words that we should charge our representatives to the Washington conference to make doubly certain that there were no dirty fingers in this pie, and to make absolutely sure that the defence and the economic provisions of this treaty were exactly what they purported to be.

We were anxious to make certain that the ostensible purposes were the real purposes. I believe that we expressed at that time our wholehearted hope that that would be so. I think, sir, we made it quite clear that when the minister came back to bring before this house the signed pact for ratification it would be our intention to have him and his assistants go into every possible interpretation of both the defence and the economic parts of the pact. He is not here. He was the only one of the ministers present at the signing of the pact at the Washington conference, and at this time we are deprived, because of the rush, of any possibility of a thorough examination of what the minister found at the Washington conference. We trust that the signing and ratification of the pact will prove to ease the tension of the situation throughout the whole world. I believe, with the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell), that there is some indication of an easement in the general tension. At this time it looks as if the signing of the pact has rendered the German situation at least much less dangerous than it was before the pact

was signed, and surely France has been given fresh hope and encouragement.

At this time I believe there is one other thing I should say. I hope the signing of the pact will not mean that the signatory nations are committing themselves to a belief in the permanency of the present world divisions. That seems to me to be a most important thing. The peoples of the world and the nations which have signed the pact will have to consider that most carefully. I do not subscribe to the inevitability of the continuation of the two-world situation. Finally, sir, I regret that we have not seen fit in either of the resolutions bringing this pact before the house to give expression to our need for Divine guidance in finding a way through the rocky shoals of a very difficult world situation.

I have on several occasions pointed out to the house that Canada is a Christian nation. We have constantly expressed our belief in the Christian way of life. Every day this House of Commons is opened with a fervent prayer to Almighty God to guide us in our deliberations. And yet, in one of the most important documents to be brought before the House of Commons at any session, this Atlantic pact, we have not seen fit to include in the resolution an expression, in so many words, of our need for Divine guidance to help us find our way through a difficult situation.

Some years ago at Christmas time our King gave us a lead, and we should have been paying more attention to it. On that occasion he quoted a most remarkable poem, to which I subscribe, and to which we should all subscribe in our efforts to solve the present terrible world situation. That poem was in these words:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

I believe I have expressed all I wished to say at this time, except to say that we are still prepared to vote for this pact. We are prepared to work for it. And while it is true that we are voting for the woodpile, let me express once more that we have no intention whatsoever of voting for any niggers that may be in it.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion? Carried.

Mr. Rodney Young (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, I desire to protest. I was on my feet before you declared the motion adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I would call the attention of the hon. member to the fact that not only