

*The Address—Mr. St. Laurent*

between that great power to the south of us and ourselves, a lesser power but nevertheless one now being recognized as sovereign and as having equality of status with that much larger national entity, and that the example of our confidence in the motives which inspire the actions of our great and powerful neighbour will serve to eradicate to a degree some of the misgivings we have heard about in other lands concerning the real motivation of the so generous conduct of that great nation in helping to rebuild the economies of so many nations throughout the world.

There can be no doubt that we do look forward, as does the Leader of the Opposition, to some further co-ordination of the approaches of the three great powers whose leaders will meet in Bermuda within a short time to discuss and attempt to bring about that degree of co-ordination.

Of course, there are none of us unmindful that this happy condition of our own situation in Canada was typified by the pageantry of the coronation of our Queen. There can be no doubt that it was very moving to all of us who were there, and under the new conditions of the transmission of news by sight as well as by audition, to millions throughout the world. All were greatly moved by the consecration of this beautiful young lady to the service of a power greater than any established on earth. I think we all felt that, just as she was promising by her oath to be a faithful servant of the greater power, we, in our service to the crown, were also carrying out the best philosophy that mankind has ever appreciated for the authority of institutions and organizations here on earth. I think we were all very much reminded of St. Paul's wisdom in saying that authority comes from above. Although the agents of authority may be designated by constitutional processes we have established here below, those who are thus designated have a responsibility, not only to their own constituents but, as Her Majesty herself, to a power that does determine the course of human events.

In the designation of those who are to exercise that authority, I think it has given us great satisfaction to find that the people of Canada have chosen to send to this parliament four representatives of the fairer sex. I have always believed that the principal objective in domestic affairs of the government of an organized society was to promote and maintain a healthy atmosphere for the development of happy families. I am sure that the women of the Canadian families know and appreciate, as well as we of the other sex do, what will have an influence for a good climate for the development of a

happy family life. It will be of advantage to us all to be reminded, in the course of our debates, of their special viewpoint in that regard.

Now, of course, no one who was there could help but be happily impressed by the evidence all around him of the spirit that has replaced one of some depression among our fellow citizens of the great commonwealth in the British Isles. There is no doubt that their outlook was a much more confident one than it had been at any time that I had been in the United Kingdom since the cessation of active hostilities. I think we have reason to expect that that confidence was not without justification. I believe it has revealed its effect in statistics, and that effect will, I hope, make it possible to look, within the not too distant future, to the prospect of renewed convertibility between the currencies of civilized nations. This will stimulate trade between them, and will thereby strengthen their economies, the very basis upon which must be built this strength that will be such as to deter aggression and prevent any recourse to those terrible agencies of destruction, which are certainly such as described by the Leader of the Opposition. When we do realize that we can kill each other, why would any of us want to start killing any of us?

We did have very anxious moments, those of us who were in government during the last war, over the preparations that should be made to guard against the use of chemical and bacteriological warfare. But it was known to us, and it must have been known to our enemies, that on both sides we had terrible agencies that would have wrought havoc on both sides. Fortunately we were not, in spite of these stresses of the terrible war, tempted to resort to those methods which would have meant destruction without probably much advantage to either side. The existence of these atomic and nuclear weapons now must be such that, knowing of their availability to all sides in any possible conflict, no one will feel that any permanent advantage would result by resorting to their use.

We are, of course, very happy that this first resort to united, collective action to force back aggression has thus far been successful. This has fortified our hope that, through collective action, we may still look forward to the achievement of those noble objectives stated in the charter of the United Nations. But, of course, it has been costly. It has been costly for us in material things. It has been costly in human lives. Fortunately our casualties have been fewer in number than the severity of the conflicts in which our forces

[Mr. St. Laurent.]