

General Eisenhower, who are probably best qualified to speak on the matter, have indicated that the German armies are disintegrating and are now on the run. I am hopeful that a few weeks—this does not mean one week, two weeks or three weeks, but a few weeks—may bring about the complete defeat of the enemy.

I have no complaint to make about the Canadian Press, which I am sure tries, under difficulties, to report accurately what is said in this Chamber as well as in the other House, but I feel I am justified in calling attention to the item in this morning's Journal with a view to correcting the statement made by the press.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from Tuesday, March 27, the consideration of His Excellency The Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. NORMAN McL. PATERSON: Honourable senators, I desire to say a few words in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. First I wish to associate myself with honourable members who have congratulated the mover (Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Robertson) of the Address, on their splendid speeches.

As I have not as much ability as many honourable senators have for public speaking, and as I intend to quote a good many statistics in the course of my remarks, I trust I shall be forgiven if I make frequent references to notes.

Europe is to-day the dark continent. It has become a problem to every human being. The world's leaders plan its future and their task is more difficult because Europe is entering now its darkest phase.

These are the words used in a report made by one of the New York Times' representatives abroad; and for the purpose of expanding the point, I hope honourable senators will bear with me while I quote him further.

Hatred can be a meaningless word to one who has not seen the things that breed it. A Serbian corpse being hacked to pieces by Croatians. French Maquis bodies mutilated by the Gestapo. A Russian sergeant picked up wounded by a German patrol and tortured, beaten and shot; but not killed. A Greek woman beating her head on the ground because her brothers and parents were killed by other Greeks. Italians killing Albanians. 300 bodies of Italians in the Catacombs in Rome, shot in cold blood by Germans. A Dutch naval officer described

watching, while helpless in hiding, a Nazi truck driver deliberately smash a small boy's arm.

These things engender hate, lasting hate. Military deaths have topped ten million; but direct and devious German brutalities, designed to reduce inimical populations either by slaughter or planned famine and disease, have caused the deaths of two or three times this number—and the end is not yet.

Whole populations have been moved so that they do not know to what nation they belong. Millions of well-fed Nazi prisoners in Allied hands will be returned to their country not by any means indoctrinated by democratic ideas; and when a battalion from an American prison camp returns to the conquered Reich it will possibly be far less convinced of the disaster of Hitler's philosophy than those who were able to see doom roll forward from the East and the West and the skies.

The problem of supervising the return to their various homes of millions of prisoners within the Reich—either captured soldiers or seized slave labourers—is enormous in itself. And what authority will arrange their return? Who will employ them to rebuild their shattered homes, and who will help them find their scattered families?

When one thinks of Europe's economic problems as they exist to-day, one can only describe them as a statistician's headache and a humanitarian heartache. Added to disrupted and almost paralysed transportation and confusion is hunger and homelessness; the fact is that there is not a single land, either in Europe or bordering it, which is not suffering from varying and tremendous degrees of inflation.

The cost of living, if living is possible at all to the masses, is exorbitant. Most national currencies are valueless, except where they are propped up by Allied financing. Wages, in relation to prices, are wholly insufficient. Markets do not exist in large areas because of ruined communication systems. Raw material and machinery shortages make consumer goods unavailable. In France, official prices rose 120 per cent between 1939 and the liberation; while black market prices rose anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 per cent. About sixty per cent of Italy's industrial capacity has been destroyed and production is virtually at a standstill.

Prices are spiralling upward—except on Allied-controlled ration markets. An ordinary Fiat car previously costing 40,000 lire is now held at 350,000 lire. Italian currency circulation has increased 1,150 per cent, and the country faces complete bankruptcy. In Belgium prices have advanced far beyond wages,