

Canada's contribution toward the relief of distress and the reestablishment of normal conditions in all the countries of Europe has been extremely high in relation to our population and resources. The government has recognized the essential nature of this task to the extent that many of our present difficulties have been caused or contributed to by our efforts to fulfil our commitments and avoid wherever possible any diversion of supplies to less needy, but more profitable markets. If the aid extended to the European nations had resulted, as was our hope and purpose, in the substantial improvement of their economic condition, the necessity for many of the temporary measures now contemplated would never have come about. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that this house realizes that, from a purely selfish point of view alone, it is in the best interests of this nation that the government be supported in its intention to continue to assist in the essential task of European reconstruction to the full extent of our capacity within the limits of the emergency measures it has been found necessary to impose.

The government of the United States is at present considering the details of additional plans to aid the continent of Europe back to economic stability, and there should not be the slightest question of the firmness of Canada's purpose to continue her contributions to this same end. The early conclusion of peace treaties with the European nations we regard as an essential step which must be undertaken and completed at the earliest possible day. We also consider that the essential interests of international cooperation and harmony will best be served by the smaller nations being accorded an opportunity to join in the negotiations leading up to the conclusion of peace treaties with nations to whose military defeat we have made a signal contribution.

The government and this parliament are prepared to give to the question of our foreign policy the time and thought its importance and complexities require in these trying and difficult times. It should, I feel, be fully understood, both by the Canadian people and by the peoples and leaders of other countries that Canada is a sovereign nation among the nations of the world and that, together with our membership in the British commonwealth of nations, the very cornerstone of our foreign policy is our membership in the united nations, through which we expect to work for the firm establishment of peace in this troubled world.

It is a source of particular gratification to Nova Scotians to note the outstanding contributions which have been and are being made

on Canada's behalf to international politics by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ilesley). Few men have been privileged to serve their country with more distinction than our wartime Minister of Finance; and he is now, in the wider sphere of the united nations organization, crowning his past accomplishments with new and distinguished service. To him, to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and to the other distinguished gentlemen who have the honour and responsibility of representing Canada in the international sphere, may I say that the Canadian people support them with their hopes and the prayer that their efforts may be crowned with success; that, as a result of their striving, the threat of the horrors of war may be removed farther and farther from our minds, and that we may look forward one day to the secure enjoyment of an era of international peace and prosperity won for us by the untiring efforts of men of good will.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, three days ago we listened with interest to His Excellency's speech when it was delivered in another chamber. The voice was the voice of His Excellency but the words were the words of the government. I want to congratulate His Excellency upon his excellent voice and his splendid diction. As for the substance of his address, there will be differences of opinion in this house and I shall express mine in a few moments.

We have listened today in this house to two other speakers, the mover (Mr. Dion) and the seconder (Mr. Dickey) of the address. I wish to compliment both speakers. I compliment the mover of the address upon his knowledge of the two languages and upon the facility with which he used both. I want to congratulate the seconder of the address upon his maiden speech and at the same time extend to him a welcome to this house. We did our best to see that a man with a more acceptable political philosophy would be here, but since we did not succeed we are very glad to welcome the hon. junior member for Halifax. As for the substance of what these hon. members had to say, we were neither surprised nor disappointed. In the traditional style they saw nothing but haloes over the heads of the hon. members who sit in the front rows on the government side. Perhaps we can excuse the new members for that because they have not known the front row as long as some of the rest of us have.

I am glad to have the opportunity on this occasion to welcome back to Canada the Prime Minister of this nation (Mr. Mackenzie King). I am sure we are all pleased to see him