

they think proper after they have carefully studied it. I am anxious, however, before this suggestion is put aside, that it be given serious consideration.

I come to another aspect of the international situation closely related to atomic energy and hydrogen bombs. Honourable senators may not recall a speech I made in this house some two years ago, when I sponsored a measure the purpose of which was aid to mining. I pointed out at that time that in the thirties Stalin took two distinct actions. One was when he ousted Trotsky. I said at that time that it was my opinion that Trotsky wanted to spread communism all across Europe, but that Stalin's reply was: No, we must make certain that communism—or socialism, as he called it—is first properly rooted in Russia, and, secondly, is properly disseminated throughout Asia.

At the beginning of the Soviet Union Lenin discarded gold, and prospectors for gold were put into labour camps. After Stalin's break with Trotsky all the prospectors were removed from the camps and put to work in the production of gold. Honourable senators will recall that at least two score eminent engineers were taken to Russia for help in industrial development there, a great part of which was engaged in the production of gold. I pointed out to this house that Stalin chose for the production of gold that part of Siberia east of the Ural mountains and immediately adjacent to Manchuria, Inner and Outer Mongolia, and the northwesterly portion of China, called Sin Kiang. We all know what has happened in China since that time. One can readily observe the recent large output of gold from China. Those who have inquired know the general source of this supply; but they do not know its specific source, nor do they know what is behind it.

Honourable senators will recall reading in the newspapers a few weeks ago that Soviet Russia has recently changed the value of its ruble, and has related it to gold. This brings us to another feature of our international affairs—the question of trade and commerce and its relation to currency. The Honourable Mr. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, speaking in New York a week or two ago said that the United States would have to increase its imports. The subject of currency naturally brings to mind the International Monetary Fund. From reading not only the agreement by which the fund was created, but also the discussions which took place when its creation was in the process of accomplishment, one will find that there was an understanding on the part of those nations represented at the conference, that the United States was prepared to increase its imports. Whether this was to be done by tariff changes or by regula-

tions is immaterial, but there was a general feeling that the United States was about ready to increase its imports.

Now I am a great friend of the United States. I feel that without her help and direction in the years since the end of the second world war anything might have happened, not only to Canada but to Great Britain and much of Europe. Yet, that does not mean the United States has always done the right thing. All the billions of dollars that were expended by that country in the last few years have accomplished a great deal; but, in my opinion, much more could have been accomplished had the expenditure of smaller sums of money been accompanied by the co-operation which is so vital to trade and commerce, namely the admission of foreign goods into that country.

In the year 1946, speaking at a conference in Prague concerning trade and currency, I expressed the opinion—which, incidentally, nobody accepted—that the trade of eastern Europe with Russia must be increased, but a monopoly must not be allowed to develop; and that trade between eastern and western Europe must increase, but that this was utterly impossible unless something were done to create proper currency conditions. Today the problem of currency has not changed for the better; in fact, in many ways it has worsened since that time; and something must be done to make possible a greater interchange of commodities, not only between Canada and the United States but between the United States and Great Britain and other European countries. That is the second suggestion I am throwing out, because, naturally, between now and the end of the parliamentary session, questions of trade and commerce will receive a great deal of careful consideration.

I thank you for the courtesy and the patience with which you have listened to me today. In closing, I repeat my recommendation that steps be taken to hold a meeting of the Atomic Energy Commission, including representatives of Canada and four of the Great Powers, but not a representative of the Chinese Nationalist Government, so that Russia shall be present at the conference and be compelled to accept or reject proposals presented by Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and France or to make proposals that can be accepted by these other countries. I make that suggestion, knowing that it will receive your careful consideration.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Horner, the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.