

*The Address—Mr. Larson*

or "fight for the west" or "fight for the maritimes" or fight for some other group. The past decade has shown that our thinking on these matters has become more and more mature. I hesitate to state the causes for this gradual binding together of the Canadian people, but there are several factors which definitely enter into it.

I would say that meeting the common danger in the two great wars had a great effect on unifying the people of this country. The moving around of people both in and out of the services also contributed. Air travel has become common, and transcontinental fares have become low enough to allow many people, otherwise confined by press of business and press of affairs, to meet their business associates and friends across the country, and to get to know them.

Your government now carries all first-class mail by air if it will bring your letters to their destination any quicker. This means a tremendous saving especially to businessmen, who can now correspond where formerly they had to wire or telephone. I still feel, however, that the policies I have the privilege to support are the largest single factor. Indeed, I have the honour to move, seconded by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Dumas):

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency Field Marshal the Right Honourable the Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order; upon whom has been conferred the decoration of the Military Cross; Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

I am happy to note that once again, as in the past, the policy of the government is to continue to carry out measures to unify this country. At the dominion-provincial conference no attempt was made to force the majority viewpoint on any minority. It is realized full well by the government that to attempt to force any measures through such a council without unanimous agreement would serve only to disrupt the forces of unity in this country. Only the principles which were obviously necessary and concurred in by all were established. Agreement was reached concerning the contentious point that, in any matters which concerned parliament only, the constitution could be amended by parliament

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alone. This was a great step, because there are many in this house who feel that any such move should be made only after consultation with the provincial authorities. The provincial premiers, themselves, however, have agreed that, in a general scheme of amendment, matters concerning parliament alone can be dealt with by parliament alone.

Further, it was established that in fundamental matters the consent of all the provincial authorities should be required and that in any matters, except fundamental rights, which concern parliament and all the provincial legislatures, provision should be made for amendment by an act of the parliament of Canada and acts of such majority of the legislatures and upon such additional conditions, if any, as may be decided upon.

It has now become apparent that the federal government has no intention of forcing its will on the provincial authorities. It also becomes apparent that the entire matter will not be settled at one fell swoop but rather will be a development which will take place over a period of months or even years. It appears to me that the effect will be to foster a condition of mutual trust between the provincial authorities and the federal government. If this tendency can be carried along without violent disagreement, necessary changes of even a contentious nature can be negotiated, thereby fostering within the country the spirit of unity that this government and the citizens of Canada themselves so earnestly desire.

In the broader realm of international affairs we also attempt to show the spirit of neighbourliness which is so important to world peace. With our own country showing this spirit of co-operation within itself, our representatives can go into the councils of the world confident that they can help this spirit to permeate the international councils. It is to be regretted that the United Nations is not yet the final council for settling world affairs. We earnestly pray God that mutual defence pacts within the United Nations will eventually become unnecessary. In the meantime the Atlantic pact nations are to be commended on their ability to ensure a block of peace-loving democracies strong enough to make aggression an extremely hazardous undertaking, while still being able to work within the council as a whole.

It affords a great deal of comfort to the people of Canada, indeed to North America, to know that the signatories to the North Atlantic pact are working so well together, and that plans are well advanced for the defence of this hemisphere in the event it