

*North Atlantic Treaty*

caught in the tidal wave of a new kind of war, a kind that manages conquests without shooting. This is the cold war about which we have heard so much. That is a kind of warfare that we in the west have not yet learned to wage. That is the kind of warfare that has been going on while the United Nations has stood by impotent.

So often in the history of this present century, some nations of the world have awakened to find themselves involved in undeclared wars. Practically the whole world is involved in one of those wars right now. By the Atlantic pact the western nations are belatedly uniting to declare a cold war on the red tidal wave. We are in a titanic struggle between east and west for dominant influence in the world; that is what cold war means.

So these are days of decision. The next few months could easily determine the fate of the whole world. If we meet the present situation with wisdom and courage, fortitude and humility, praying for divine guidance, earnestly seeking to do what is best for man, then we in the remaining democracies might easily lead into a new phase of the struggle, where very powerful forces will spring to our help in stemming the tide and finally bringing peace and security to the whole world.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at seven-thirty o'clock.

**Mr. Low:** Before the dinner recess was called I had traced what, in our view, the world situation really is. I wish to say now that, in the light of world conditions, as we now see them, this is no time for appeasement; the time for appeasement is long past. But equally I want to stress that this is no time for talk of aggressive warfare in the military sense. There is a homely adage which runs like this, "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far". I think it was Teddy Roosevelt who said that, if the American nation would speak softly and yet build and keep at a pitch of the highest training a thoroughly efficient navy, the Monroe doctrine would go far. What the western nations are considering today is a second Monroe doctrine in a sense, but I think the success of the whole venture is going to depend to a very large extent on how well each signatory nation curbs any instinct toward aggression, and how honestly the nations are prepared to co-operate under the pact—as well as upon how wisely each sets about to build its own strength, economic, cultural and military—in readiness to defend

themselves, individually and collectively against aggressors.

The terms of the Atlantic pact have been before us now for several days. They call for defensive military co-operation as well as economic co-operation.

Let me say that Social Crediters have always taken a realistic position in this house and out of it on the matter of defensive preparation. Our record in that regard is perfectly clear and unmarred in any respect. We do not believe, however, that Canada is strong enough today to do her duty to the other nations and to the world. We favour the utmost of effective co-operation now with the other nations in the Atlantic area to ensure peace and security, and to present to any aggressors the very strongest possible defensive alliance that can be arranged. I saw enough when I was at the United Nations assembly in 1947, and in Europe just last autumn, to make me realize that the remaining free countries of the world must stand together, and must speak with one voice, a voice of readiness and of warning to Russia and to her satellites or, for that matter, to any other uneasy nation or group of nations. Therefore we are in full agreement with the military and the defensive side of the North Atlantic security pact.

We insist that, when Canada signs the pact, she do so with full knowledge of every obligation it will place upon this country. Unless ever signatory nation does likewise, the proposed alliance of free western nations can never be the war deterrent that it is hoped it will be. There must be the utmost of good faith all round. We take it also that Canada's signing of the treaty is not an automatic commitment to war. It seems clear to us that, under article 5, we reserve the right to decide for ourselves what contribution we shall make in any case of attack by an aggressor upon one of our allies under the treaty. Our support of the proposed pact is predicated upon the assurance that it will in no case be used as an alliance of aggression, either military or economic, and that there shall be upon Canada no coercion or sanctions when we decide what action we think it best for us to take in any situation that does arise. If there were in its terms any implication that Canada was signing a blank cheque; if, by becoming a party to the pact, Canada were parting with our right to determine our own course by our own democratic processes, Social Crediters would oppose it with all their strength. I am sure Canada's record is such as to convince all the world that we will do what is right by our people and our allies under all threatening circumstances.

[Mr. Low.]