

leading political parties in Canada. I believe that had President Wilson taken some of his opposition to the peace conference at the end of the first world war the foreign policy of the United States would not have taken such an isolationist trend. For that reason our policy of permitting the leaders of the opposition parties to have a share in the framing of our foreign policy and a thorough understanding of the reasons leading up to it is one that should have the approval of all Canadians.

I wish now, Mr. Speaker, to turn to a question that has been occupying the minds of the people of Canada for some time. I refer to the negotiations that have been going on for some considerable time between the leaders of the provinces and the dominion government in the hope that an equitable settlement, fair to all parties, could be arrived at on the vexed question of the allocation of taxing powers. After the break-up of the latest dominion-provincial conference in May last it was apparent that no good would result from the reconvening of the conference. It was felt by the dominion authorities, and the view was shared by many of the provincial governments, that more satisfactory results would be achieved by individual negotiations with the several provinces. The opinions expressed by some of the provincial leaders at the conference in April and May were such as would indicate that they were prepared to enter into a settlement only on terms that would emasculate the dominion. They seemed to fear the centralization of taxing authority in Canada. They did not realize that it was only by a fair distribution of the tax revenues of Canada that provincial fiscal autonomy would be effective. In this connection I wish to quote briefly from the foreword of an excellent book on this vexed question by Wilfrid Eggleston, entitled, "The Road to Nationhood". This is a well-written and well-documented work, the study of which by every hon. member of this house I would urgently recommend. Mr. Eggleston, at page XIV in his foreword states:

But no one can view with equanimity the prospect that we are going into the difficult post-war world with the defects of the 1930's still uncorrected, and with the same fatal deadlock, the same fatal disparity between constitutional authority and fiscal capacity, as contributed so materially to the incidence of the depression upon Canada, and threatened for a while to undermine the whole existence of this country as a federal state. A harmonious and concerted drive upon Canada's domestic problems, notably high national income, full employment and the provision of adequate minimum social services, is imperative; and if the dominion formula is not satisfactory, some alternative must be found which is. Only less vital

[Mr. MacNaught.]

is the need to give the national government adequate authority to enter into international agreements. In an age when the surrender of some national authority to supra-national agencies appears inevitable, it would be anachronous that the residue of rigid autonomy left to individual provinces should be so potent as to thwart and baffle steps toward effective international agreement.

The determination to enter into individual agreements with the provinces has been amply justified. Already offers have been submitted that several of the provinces have found satisfactory. I believe that the premier of my province, the Hon. J. Walter Jones, will eventually sign an agreement that will be hailed with entire satisfaction by all the people of my province. It is now abundantly clear that the method of negotiation with the provinces individually has been much more satisfactory in its results to those provinces that have sought agreement by individual negotiation than anything hitherto accomplished by a general conference. Nothing could be gained by the reconvening of a dominion-provincial conference to further negotiate tax agreements. I believe, therefore, that the decision of the Prime Minister not to reconvene the conference is a wise one.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, in deference to the 15,000 Acadians in my province, 10,000 of whom inhabit my constituency, I believe it is my duty, before concluding my speech, to say a few words in French, their mother tongue. The Acadians of Prince Edward Island have reason to be proud of their realization. Their loyalty, their sense of duty and their devotion can be cited as an example. It gives me pleasure to pay this tribute to them in their own tongue.

(Text):

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to state that I have purposely made my remarks as brief as possible in the hope that others who will follow me may be brief also, and that we shall soon get down to the real business of the session.

Mr. GERARD COURNOYER (Richelieu-Vercheres) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, it is with deep emotion that I rise for the first time in my country's most august assembly. This, I wish you to believe, is no stereotyped phrase to open a speech as befits the occasion. It is an accurate description of the feelings I am now experiencing.

In this very hall, the history of my country has been written for half a century, in an atmosphere of unflinching democratic freedom. In this hall, great men have thought and