

bers of the commonwealth must stand firmly together in their efforts if we are ever to influence the laying down of conditions for enduring or permanent peace. It must not be forgotten that Britain has been weakened terribly by the ravages of two wars; and with economic weakness there is bound to come some diminution of her prestige in world affairs. A weakened Britain will find tremendous difficulty in her efforts to negotiate a just peace for Germany and Austria. During the past year several indications have become evident of Britain's financial and economic weakness. I have been much concerned of late over the announced withdrawal of Britain from India and of the possible necessity of her withdrawal from Greece and Palestine. If she does withdraw, I want to ask this question and to have hon. members face it squarely. Who will fill the vacuum created by that withdrawal? That is a matter which has a definite relationship to the possibility of making a just peace for Germany and Austria; and that too, Mr. Speaker, should be a matter of grave concern to the whole democratic world. Realizing that, I ask you what Canada's position is if she is to be of some assistance in formulating enduring treaties of peace? It ought to be evident that the parts of the commonwealth have always made the mistake, when war was over, of demobilizing completely and leaving to Britain the policing of the world, or what policing there was to do.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Leaving Britain to wash the dirty dishes.

Mr. LOW: Yes. In her present exhausted state I claim that is not only inhumane but dangerous as well. In my opinion, the hope of the future lies in complete understanding of foreign policy and in readiness to cooperate amongst all the component independent parts of the British commonwealth, and, if you wish, of the Anglo-American world. Our duty, it seems to me, is clear. First, we must come to complete understanding with Britain. Britain does have a place on the council of foreign ministers and evidently she is expected to speak for the whole Anglo-Saxon world.

Second, Canada is the oldest, or I should say the most grown-up sister in the sisterhood of nations of the commonwealth; we should take the lead in rallying the other parts of the commonwealth, and, if possible, the United States and other democracy-loving nations, to stand solidly together with Britain in this hour of grave danger.

Third, we should maintain a firm stand. I commend the government on the stand it has taken thus far, that Canada should be given her just place in the peace conferences. I

have gone over the submission which Canada made with respect to the German and Austrian treaties, and I have little to add to what has already been said. I believe that the submission regarding the peace with Germany is good, and I find myself in substantial agreement with the government in that.

In the fourth place, since the united nations organization is a reality—the only reality, it seems to me, outside of the British commonwealth that the nations of the world have been able to devise thus far as a means of achieving world peace—the only sensible attitude that we can take now is to pray to God that it will be successful and to give it every opportunity to show what it can do. I for one, Mr. Speaker, propose to do just that. I am not a carping critic by any means, of the work of the united nations organization. I should like to see it succeed in establishing permanent peace on just foundations. To date it has not given much promise of being able to do so.

If we are to be able to assist in laying down an enduring peace with any nation, and to take our place in the councils of the great nations, ready and willing to exercise our moral strength for the good of the world, I believe we must go back to the spirit of the Atlantic charter. We must revive in our people the hope which that charter aroused in the people of the world. We must hold up the spirit of the charter as our ensign, and we must work unceasingly to see that the terms of the Atlantic charter are made realities. I like the way President Roosevelt spoke of it. I subscribe wholeheartedly to the spirit of his declaration, and I believe that if we remember it in our submissions with respect to the formulation of the treaties for Germany and Austria and any others which may follow, we shall have no difficulty in exercising that influence which Canada alone is capable of exercising by virtue of the fact that she is not seeking any material gain, and that she is anxious to demonstrate her sincerity by good works. Here is what Roosevelt said:

This is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for the kind of world attainable in our own time and generation. That kind of world is the antithesis of the order of tyranny which dictators seek to create. To that order of tyranny we oppose the greater conception—the moral order. Let our nations place their destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of millions of free men and women, and their faith in freedom under the guidance of God.

I subscribe to the sentiments in that statement, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that in the application of those principles we have the underlying hope for the future peace of the world.