

## HISTORIC EVENT IN PARLIAMENT

History was made in The House of Commons June 2 when for the first time Parliament was addressed by a head of state of Germany. The speaker was Dr. Theodor Heuss, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, who was introduced by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker and thanked by the Speakers of the House of Commons and Senate.

Dr. Heuss said in part:

"...I hold it a great honour to be permitted to speak in this illustrious House, which is at once a home and a model of the democratic spirit.

"My words are at the same time addressed to the people of Canada to whom I wish to extend cordial greetings from the German people. May I accompany these greetings by my sincere thanks for the friendly reception accorded me everywhere since my arrival in this great country.

"Throughout the centuries preceding our own, which has brought such tragedy to the peoples of the world, relations between Germany, whatever her form of government, and Canada were of a peaceful nature.

"Then followed the two world wars, the first brought about by political misunderstanding and ineptitude, the second by evil and arrogant worship of power.

"We cannot ignore these historical events which claimed so many victims and caused so much bloodshed. I still remember the war memorial honouring the Canadian soldiers who fell in northern France in 1917 and 1918.

"Out of these many battles there emerged mutual respect for soldierly gallantry, and then the understanding that it would be better to live with one another, yes! for one another! For it must not be forgotten that we have the same spiritual heritage and a great deal in common both intellectually and culturally.

"Alas! Our generation knows all too well that campaigns and wars may have been brought to a victorious conclusion, but that peace has not yet been won.

"The fear lurking in the souls of many nations is the result of political or military decisions still prompted by old wartime passions and worries.

"We in Germany have many reasons to be grateful to the Canadian Government and the people of Canada for their early and unwavering understanding.

"We appreciate what it means for Canada to maintain soldiers on German soil, to afford an opportunity to young German pilots to familiarize themselves with the constantly developing aircraft techniques, and to recognize and support the German people's demand for reunification by peaceful, democratic means.

"The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which both our countries and peoples are loyal

members, is the political expression of mutual solidarity.

"Due to the times we live in, this treaty at first had military and even strategic aspects. But it is growing out of that stage, and this in itself refutes all eastern propaganda claiming that it is a kind of aggressors' plot.

"The political and economic traditions and aspirations embodied in this treaty are much too diversified for anything like that.

"Canada, with her wide open spaces, and her rich resources waiting to be tapped, is developing her own historical rhythm. But she nevertheless still remains linked to Europe through the origin of her inhabitants belonging to separate language and cultural groups and stemming from her formative period and through the immigrants who bravely faced the risks of the new environment or, driven from the soil of their forefathers, established a new home here. What thousandfold opportunities many of them found in this land, especially the Germans expelled from southeastern Europe.

"Here, where vast space fashions its own laws, it will also be appreciated that free Europe and, in the not too distant future it is hoped, the other Europe which, together, we historically consider as an indivisible whole, is developing the elements of its unity in the economic, social as well as the spiritual and cultural fields, despite its present division.

"These are the questions which find their expression in concepts such as EURATOM, common market and free trade area, but I cannot enlarge on their problems at this time and place. I think that the progress they represent is also appreciated in this country.

"The psychological and political background of all this is the fact that the convulsions which characterized the relations between Germany and France for centuries have now been eliminated, after terrible experiences.

"German youth has understood this to be essential to the future of Europe.

"Germany, which gratefully cultivates friendly relations with the United Kingdom and the countries in the north, west and south, has given herself authority in her constitution to renounce her traditional national sovereignty.

"The days spent here have made me richer in understanding, as I have viewed venerable and historic Quebec; seen the living present of Toronto and Montreal and had the incomparable experience of seeing the St. Lawrence seaway and Niagara Falls. And I know you will not mind my quiet feeling of pride when I think that 60 years ago, when the falls were first harnessed to generate power, it was my native province that supplied the first turbines.

"In closing, allow me to say that this

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