

further strengthened. To achieve that, parliamentarians must recognize its importance and take up whatever steps are deemed necessary for its development.

In this as in many other fields, Canada and Europe have every reason in the world to work together as closely as possible. The unity of the Community to which they both belong will depend on whether or not they have been successful in their efforts.

[English]

Honourable senators, I hope I have given an indication of what occupied us during those twelve days. We were inspired by the Council of Europe. We learned much by our contacts with its members. We were very interested in developments in Czechoslovakia.

The Canadian delegation, made up of all parties in this house—and, at Strasbourg, from the other house—worked co-operatively, to represent Canada with dignity and purpose. I feel that in what we set out to do, as other delegations seek to do when they go to such conferences, we made a contribution that not only served the purpose of the conference but the nation we represented.

I want to say to His Honour the Speaker and those in the delegation, the Leader of the Opposition and Senator Aird, that I valued very much being with them. I am sure all four of us valued the co-operation and the collaboration which we received from members of the House of Commons who joined us at Strasbourg.

**Hon. M. Grafton O'Leary:** Honourable senators, as I happened to have asked a question in this house about the whereabouts of the Government Leader, His Honour the Speaker and my own Leader, Senator Flynn, and as I wanted to know what they had gone to Europe for, what they were consulting about in Europe, and with whom they were consulting, now that I have had the Government Leader give such an extensive reply, may I offer just a few comments.

First of all, I must say with great respect, that I was not at all impressed by what the Leader of the Government told us about the Council of Europe. What, after all, does it boil down to? What is the Council of Europe? Who elects it? To whom is it responsible? What are its legislative powers? What are its sanctions? And what, in fact, in a concrete way has it achieved during the past 20 years?

The Leader of the Government recited that glorious rhetoric of Mr. Churchill, about his

hopes and visions for Europe because of the coming of the Council of Europe. What has happened in those 20 years? Did what happened in any way justify the hopes and the visions of Mr. Churchill?

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** I think so.

**Hon. Mr. O'Leary:** Those 20 years have seen the rape of Hungary; they have seen the rape of Czechoslovakia; they have seen more disunity and more division in Europe than Europe had known for many years past, excluding the two world wars.

During my sojourn in the hospital—and I thank the leader for his kindly reference to me—I took up some of my time between a wistful contemplation of my past and some thoughtless meditation about my present and future with reading the memoirs of Mr. George F. Kennan. I should like to think that those memoirs or observations of Mr. Kennan, an acknowledged authority on European and world affairs, could be made required reading for every Member of Parliament in Canada. One of the things he stressed was the obsession of the American public and the American press with problems in Europe. No matter what question arose, the American public and press and legislatures, with that curious addiction they have to idealism and moralism, rushed in to support some proposition emanating from Europe without troubling to find out what the proposition was about.

I am afraid I am often surprised and sometimes disturbed by the obsession of Canadians, and especially of Canadian parliaments and Canadian parliamentarians, with the affairs of Europe. Here we have in Canada at the present time problems afflicting us, oppressing us, which are of mortal significance to the future of this country and yet you seldom pick up a daily newspaper without reading how another body or another group of Canadian parliamentarians have gone to Europe to see what they can do about Europe.

Honourable senators, we shall make precious little contribution to setting the affairs of the world in order unless and until we first show capacity to set in order our own affairs. If this be isolationism, then I have to say to you: make the most of it!

If I go out to a dinner party tonight, tomorrow night or perhaps any night next week—

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** You should not go tonight.