

*The Address—Mr. Low*

urgent concern to all of us when we see the conditions in some of the western European countries today as the result of inflation. In France wages are lagging far behind and there is grave unrest. It is true, as the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has said, that the British workers have shown a tremendous amount of restraint in not pushing wage demands which they could have done during this period. I believe it is a great tribute to them. The same thing applies to workers in other parts of the world, but we cannot expect that kind of thing to continue indefinitely. Ultimately the struggle for progress will depend on the co-operative use of our resources and the standards of living everywhere, as well as the removal of poverty, misery and want wherever they exist. So I am going to put these considered views forward from our party on the international side:

1. That Canada press in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization council for greater attention to the economic consequences of rearmament.

2. That Canada, in partnership with the United States of America, greatly increase her direct contribution to economic aid to Europe and Asia.

3. That Canada should, under present conditions, oppose increased military burdens which are likely to cause economic distress and international collapse, and which would thereby defeat the whole purpose of the alliance.

4. That economic co-operation be promoted by Canada, under article 2 of the treaty, particularly in the pooling of essential raw materials and supplies, leading to a closer integration of the economies of the allied countries.

May I say that what I have said does not in any way imply that Canada should not fulfil her obligations under the North Atlantic treaty. Indeed, quite the contrary; although I saw in one of the newspapers this morning criticism of this statement, on the ground that the C.C.F. was going back on the position that it has taken hitherto. Not at all. What we are saying here is that there are nations which are less able to bear the impact of the burden of the defence of the democratic world than are the United States and Canada, and in order that we do not destroy the very basis of their defence—namely, their economies—that when it is necessary and if it is necessary we should assume a larger share of that international burden for the defence of the free institutions that we have in common.

What we say is that more attention must be given to article 2 of the treaty, which

visualized the integration of the economies of the democratic nations in order that economic stability and progress might maintain the strength of the democratic alliance to resist threats of both economic collapse and of military aggression.

We believe that a real danger to the western democracies is the possibility that the present rearmament burdens and the high prices of basic materials caused by inflation, generated largely in North America, will weaken our European allies and undermine their determination to resist totalitarian aggression.

These, Mr. Speaker, are the main reasons I have emphasized the need for the control of basic materials and domestic supplies and have urged once more upon the government a consideration of intelligent controls and beneficial subsidies in the light of our experience during the war; because while we are not at war now, we are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on defence, a fact which makes this economy more like that of wartime than of peacetime.

**Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with those who have preceded me in this debate in complimenting the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Cauchon) and the hon. member for Yukon-Mackenzie River (Mr. Simmons) on the exceedingly high quality of their efforts in moving and seconding the address. I should also like to join with those who have preceded me in expressing our sincere hope that His Majesty the King will continue to improve and that he will soon regain completely his health and strength. We are quite sure the Canadian people feel that it is a high honour to have amongst them at this time, and to enjoy their presence, Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. These young people are endearing themselves to the Canadian people wherever they go. The enthusiasm with which they are greeted bespeaks the firm attachment to the British crown which exists everywhere amongst our people. We sincerely hope that the remainder of their tour will be most pleasant for everybody and will be without unpleasant incident of any kind.

Mr. Speaker, we heard here this afternoon some very interesting addresses. I have been keenly interested right from the first words that were spoken by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew). With a great many of the things he said I find myself in full agreement. He covered nearly the whole field of important things that should be considered in this debate. I will not have as much time to