

I say, too, that if the accused are found guilty after a fair and proper trial, they must be dealt with according to the law as laid down by this parliament. It is no excuse, as some cynics in this country are suggesting, to say that all nations employ foreign agents. We are not trying a foreign power; we are charging our own nationals with an offence against their fellow citizens which, if proven, no right-thinking person can possibly condone. That I think should be made abundantly clear, because some sections of the press in our country and in the United States have publicized this matter in a way which I believe has tended to complicate a very difficult international situation.

The Prime Minister's statement of February 15, which he read to the house to-night, was couched in careful and I think unprovocative language, and I regret that some sections of the press did not exhibit that sense of responsibility in discussing the matter which characterized our Canadian newspapers during the war. Such newspapers may have overlooked the fact that a violent press campaign directed against Russia would be regarded in a country where there is no free press, as the official attitude of this country. Considerable mischief has arisen because of that. It has lent colour, too, to the charge in the communist Labour Progressive papers in this country, widely quoted in the Soviet union, that Canada and its government are engaged in a plot against what they are pleased to call the left wing of the labour movement or in an anti-Soviet campaign, when I am confident that nothing is farther from the truth. Actually the fact is that everyone with any sense of responsibility realizes that the peace and welfare of the whole world depend upon what? Upon the establishment of friendly relations and confidence among all nations, and particularly between Russia and the English-speaking world. Failing to achieve this, lacking this hope, the united nations organization will be shattered. Upon our understandings and good relations the future of mankind depends.

In this atomic age the united nations organization must be made to work so that we may proceed to the establishment of government at the international level. I believe there is no other way of preventing a terrible catastrophe, a third world war, in which, with the new weapons and scientific knowledge we now possess, millions of people may be wiped out in a single night. And when I make that statement I do not make it as my own. Had I been present in December when the matter of the atomic bomb was discussed—unfor-

tunately I was ill—I would have told the house that early in December I heard some of the leading scientists who were responsible for the discovery of atomic energy and the making of the atomic bomb make that very statement; that with the knowledge they now possess it is possible in a country like the United States, by planting atomic bombs in the industrial centres, to destroy as many as forty million souls in a single night.

Now I want to say something about the method pursued by the government in the handling of this situation. I appreciate the difficulties; I appreciate the defence of the government's procedure which the Prime Minister has offered this evening, but I believe there has been too much secrecy, too much mystery in the government's handling of the matter for the public good. The air has been full of rumours, some wild but many which subsequently proved well founded. This has been bad and, may I say to the government, indicates serious leaks from persons who might be expected to show a greater sense of responsibility. A case in point is that of the arrest of the representative of a constituency in this house. A week before the action was taken a dispatch to a London newspaper quoted in a Montreal newspaper, I believe the *Montreal Herald*, said that such action was about to be taken, that the Prime Minister would denounce a member of parliament in the house when we met. Well, the hon. member for Cartier (Mr. Rose) was arrested the day we met, and the next day the Prime Minister informed the house that the unknown agent who had received information from an accused for the benefit of Russia was believed to be the representative in parliament of the constituency of Cartier, Montreal. There have been other similar news items.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that I saw the item to which he refers, and if my recollection is aright it stated that I was going to complain about something having been revealed in regard to some secret session of parliament. Nothing of the kind that I know of has entered into the present situation. More than that may I say that I had no knowledge that the report which was received from the commissioners on Thursday would be made at the time it was. It was that report which necessitated the arrest of the hon. member. There have been leaks, I admit, but that was not one of them.

Mr. COLDWELL: Well, I am very glad to get the Prime Minister's assurance; but he states there have been leaks, and indeed it was at least quite a coincidence that a