

*Austrian State Treaty*

That whole state of affairs was altered during the first world war, and among the changes introduced was the establishing of a more democratic form of government. Then, in 1938, shall I say at pistol point, German dominance was complete. There could be no question about it because of the might of the German armies. At the same time, Germany had established a psychological dominance for some years previous to 1938.

This very interesting country was a cultural centre in Europe for many years. Possibly the summit of that culture was reached in music. I never think of Austria without thinking of Viennese waltzes as they were played at very stately and formal dances which I witnessed as a boy when people liked to listen to good music and were not content to be satisfied with a collection of cow bells and kettle drums for the exercise of the waltz and other dances. Austria is a country which has enjoyed a great reputation with respect to medicine and which has, in addition, made a great contribution to world culture through its architecture.

It is one of the leading countries in Europe in terms of the signing of secret treaties in its past history. This is a treaty openly arrived at by the methods evolved in recent years and as a result of the painstaking effort of persons within and without Austria. It was a country known for its stately courts and dignified culture confined largely to a few at the top and supported by a very virile and capable peasantry who always have had strong democratic instincts. It is a country, as I said before, known for its music and, though I am no judge of this question, a country, according to history, known for its beautiful women.

It is interesting to me as a socialist and to all other hon. members of this group to know that the socialist movement of Austria has made a great contribution to the advance of democracy and toward bringing about the state of affairs that exists in Austria today. When the socialist party was first established I suppose it was what we would call very right wing in its outlook. It strongly supported the monarchy of the day. A reading of the record indicates that it had some very fruitful times and performed some very fruitful acts on behalf of those people.

When it comes to the question of the period of the second world war we realize that it was the socialist movement in Austria supported by those with strong nationalist loyalties that built the underground which effectively over a period of years did much to destroy the strength of the German forces within that country.

As a socialist I am proud to realize that it was a socialist who was the first chancellor in 1919, Dr. Karl Renner. In 1945 Dr. Karl Renner was again elected as chancellor of Austria and remained in that position until he died in 1950.

Austria occupies a unique position in history because although it was overrun by German forces and controlled by nazism for a period of years, in spirit Canada was never at war with Austria because of the circumstances.

The parliament of Canada is approving this treaty on behalf of the Canadian people. I am sure this approval receives the hearty endorsement of the Canadian people. In recent years Austria has been a member of the United Nations. I had the opportunity to be an observer with the Canadian delegation for a month in 1956, during and after the period when the Suez question was uppermost in everyone's mind and later the Hungarian question. Anyone having an opportunity to witness those debates and talk personally with some of the representatives would realize that the representatives of that country which is small physically but great in spirit were making a good contribution to that organization and, shall I say, a special contribution owing to the particular circumstances under which they live.

This group supports the confirmation of this treaty. These fortunate people are not burdened with the heavy cost of armament as are many other nations of the world. This is because of the obligations of this treaty and the circumstances under which they live. Before concluding I must say that this group wishes there were more central European countries who had the opportunity to live under the same circumstances without having imposed on them the heavy burdens caused by armaments, particularly in the central zone of Europe, not only because we wish these people to be free of such unhealthy costs but because we believe such an arrangement would add to the solution of our international questions and hasten the time when we will enter the era of peace which we all hope for in the future.

The members of this group extend their best wishes and all expressions of good will to the Austrian people for success in their support of freedom and democratic principles within and without their country. We trust that their happiest, most fruitful and glorious days are yet to come.

Motion agreed to.