

*The Address—Mr. Breton*

The numerous social measures to which I have referred may run up against certain constitutional obstacles, and we must admit that they do. It is therefore urgent to amend the texts in a spirit of mutual understanding, so as not to hinder the progress of this legislation.

Among the important events which took place since the adjournment of the last session in September, the last but not least was the Prime Minister's trip to London and Paris from the fourth to the thirteenth of this month. The importance of the matters discussed at the commonwealth conference attracted the attention of the whole country to the events which took place in London and Paris. The marked satisfaction evinced by the press, Canadian, French and English, over the Canadian Prime Minister's recent statements in Paris as well as in London, underlines the democratic peoples' desire to safeguard peace. We still do not know what results these efforts will bring. Whatever is in the offing, however, the Canadian people will recognize, I think, that Canada, while fulfilling her obligations towards her allies in the matter of defence, is doing everything in her power to avert war.

As this new session opens, free countries see one of the gravest hours in history approaching.

Whether we like it or not, our country is bound by the necessity to defend its freedom and its life against the greatest danger the modern world has known.

The alliance of Slavic and Mongolian peoples threatens our civilization with a dreadful menace. It recalls a similar hour which goes back exactly 1,500 years in time, since it was in March of the year 451 of the Christian era that Attila, known as the scourge of God, invaded Gaul and Italy.

The middle ages were never to forget the horrors of this invasion which, though it lasted but a short time, was the most cruel ever experienced in ancient times. A wave of Asiatic barbarians then swept over western civilization, with this difference that, in 1951, the danger is much greater.

For the second time in fifteen centuries, the West is being threatened by the East. The present era is again faced with a threat similar to that which horrified the world of yesteryear. This threat does not arise from the domination of one people by another, but from a conflict between two worlds, from the

clash of two civilizations. The opposite poles of communism and of democracy are, on the one hand, ideological atheism and, on the other, belief in God.

Precisely because this is a serious hour, we must be grateful to the leader of the government for judging the international situation with all the calmness it requires. That quality of realism so appreciated in him, in London and in Paris and his suggestion, when many were giving way to fear, that explanations be sought from China about a text he considered equivocal, have raised new hopes for peace and for the possible settlement of the Asian problem.

Even though our Prime Minister is a good ambassador of peace, he still wishes to make this country secure against any possible war.

The speech from the throne reflects this preoccupation on the part of the government. It also announces legislation on federal-provincial fiscal agreements and the pursuance of the government's social security policy by the improvement of the Old Age Pensions Act.

Several security measures will be introduced in this house, with a particular view to speeding up our defence production, thanks to the abundant resources of this country.

I would point out, among other things, the adoption of certain measures that will give the governor in council the extra authority required to ensure adequate defence preparations, in order to face this emergency while preventing the economic disruption they could entail.

The setting up of a Department of Defence Production will help first of all to supply our defence forces and will provide such material aid to our allies as may be met from Canadian production.

This program of legislation is the answer to the communist ideology and to the attempts of Russia to gain world domination. If the leaders of the Moscow regime are trying to scare the world by centralizing all the resources of the countries under their domination, it is necessary that all free countries, without abandoning peace negotiations, pool their resources, create material and moral unity and combine their resistance efforts in the defence of liberty.

*(Text):*

On motion of Mr. Drew the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. St. Laurent the house adjourned at 4.15 p.m.