

Commander Harold Stassen who I believe is one of the representatives selected by President Roosevelt to go to the conference for the United States, said that one of the reasons why he subscribed to an international security system was this.

He said:

That we do not subscribe to the extreme view of nationalistic sovereignty; that we realize that neither this nation nor any other nation can be a law unto itself . . . and that we are willing to delegate a limited portion of our national sovereignty to our united nations organization.

I think that is inevitable if we want to have peace. So, then, as the nations should bring themselves under a code of laws, it follows that no nation should be above the law, as no individual is above the law. There is another function of a collective security system, that is, the function of removing the causes that lead to aggression, and improving social systems. We should stress this as much as the function of preventing aggression. Provision for this is made in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, and I am firmly of the opinion that the more attention the nations give to the study and solution of social and economic problems, the less time and thought they will have to give to coercive action. Some people are cynical—perhaps that is too strong a word—as to the success of any system of international security because of the failure of the league that was created at the end of the last war. Again I agree with the hon member for Rosetown-Biggan when he said, that it was not the league that failed; it was the refusal of the nations of the world to use the machinery created by the league that brought us to the verge of catastrophe in the present struggle.

At this time, however, in my opinion we are discussing international security in a very different atmosphere. After the last war collective security was an idea in the mind of one statesman at the peace conference. Because of his position and the prestige of his country he succeeded in having his proposals become part of the treaty of Versailles, but I do not think it is any secret that other statesmen at that conference accepted those proposals with their tongues in their cheeks. They did not like them. They were afraid of them. They were afraid they would interfere with the old system of grab, and no sincere attempt was ever made to make them work. To-day we are talking about collective security in an altogether different situation. We are talking about collective security at a time when the nations of the world have become convinced by the events of the past

[Mr. MacInnis.]

five or six years that there is no safety in isolation. War has become so terrible that no country or individual can escape its consequences. As a result everyone must accept his or her responsibility for putting an end to it; and in my opinion there is no other way to put an end to war in general except the way we are going to put an end to this one, and that is by the cooperation of the nations of the world. President Roosevelt told congress recently that the United States would have to take the responsibility for world collaboration or have to bear the responsibility for another world conflict. We in Canada are facing the same situation that is being faced by the people of the republic to the south. We have come through this war, at least so far, without the invasion of our shores or the destruction of our cities, but it is most unlikely that if another war should take place in ten, twenty or twenty-five years, we should again escape.

I think it was the Prime Minister who said yesterday that we should not expect perfection, and I suppose that is true. But there is no reason, I suggest, why we should not strive for it, and I hope our delegates to the San Francisco conference will put forward every effort, because they have a sacred trust to do everything in their power to make the charter as perfect as possible. In this I am sure they will have the good wishes of all hon. members of this house.

Mr. FRED ROSE (Cartier): On behalf of the Labour-Progressive party I wish to endorse the resolution which has been moved by the Prime Minister concerning Canada's participation in the San Francisco conference. I want to urge upon hon. members that we adopt this resolution unanimously, as an expression of the united desire of the Canadian people for lasting peace. Lasting peace! Here are two words that mean so much to suffering humanity. The men at the front and the people at home look to us to leave no stone unturned in our endeavour this time to make possible a peace that will endure. Many ask if this can be done, if it is only a utopia. The answer is to be found in the mighty combined offensives that are giving nazism its death blow. The answer is to be found in the unprecedented unity of the three great leaders of world democracy who charted a new course for mankind at the Crimea conference. The answer is being given by the people of all lands who fight for freedom and who are utterly determined that never again must the world pass through the horrors and devastation of war.