

NATO—European Defence Community

Mr. Pearson: We have not taken any action yet.

Mr. Low: But we are in the process of taking some action now. It is before us for ratification. As I understand it, what we are doing here is putting the seal of approval of the people on it so that at any time it is deposited with the United States of America, and when the other contractees to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have done likewise, then it becomes a binding contract. Well, we are taking action.

Anybody who has a knowledge of the facts of history must realize that the present sordid world situation did not just happen. It did not. These things do not just happen. These things that make up the present sordid world situation are the results of policies of men. That being so, for the life of me I cannot understand how anybody could possibly say that the integration of Europe is not being forced. It is being forced. War and the fear of war have been used for a long time to force that integration. I have some fairly strong feelings of suspicion about the whole matter. I have watched the moves ever since I was old enough to start to watch them. Back in 1917, Mr. Speaker, we did not worry too much about communism; but when we saw communism rise, we began to worry. And by the way, Mr. Speaker, it rose in Germany; it was cradled in Germany; it was nourished in Germany. The communist cells were developed in Germany and spread elsewhere. When, back in 1917 and 1918, we saw an opportunity of nipping communism in the bud and saw that it was deliberately by-passed, some of us began to wonder what was up. And when we saw it spread from Germany, by way of what I think was a deliberate conspiracy, into Russia, sponsored by German interests and German money, to make possible the revolution, and make possible communist control of Russia, and nothing was done to prevent it—in fact everything was done to enhance the move, Mr. Speaker—some of us were filled with foreboding. We have seen these things develop step by step toward the point where today some say that the only possible cure for it is the full federation of Europe.

I do not know whether that could possibly be a cure. I am quite prepared to admit that balance of power arrangement amongst all the free nations of the world is essential at this time. It may even be that integration of European economies under what the minister is pleased to call the functional approach is necessary. It may be, but, as I said to begin this part of my talk, I would be a whole lot more impressed by the minister's statement if the facts of history did not indicate quite definitely that the integration of Europe is being forced and has been forced and has been planned for a long time. It needs a lot of study and a lot more of consideration than we have been able to give it up to this time.

The minister informed us today that the road to ratification of the peace treaty with Germany and of this protocol itself is likely to be a difficult one. I understand that Canada is the first country to take action on the protocol. That may or may not be true.

It seems almost a chronic fault, in my judgment, of the Liberal government to want to rush headlong into international commitments, to be the first in the water without knowing how deep the water is or how treacherous the currents may be in the swimming pool. We have made terrible mistakes in the past through such unwise haste. I have often wondered how long this government will make Canada the guinea pig, or the cat's paw to snatch the first hot chestnut out of the fire. How long are they going to continue to make Canada the guinea pig or that cat's paw?

Like the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggarr (Mr. Coldwell), I say let us first see what some of these other nations are going to do. Give them the chance to act first. I recall quite well that when the Bretton Woods matter came up in the house in 1945 one of the things which we Social Crediters placed before the house was that Russia had continued to press for that thing with such undue and indecent haste that we were suspicious of it. We said: Let us just take a look and see what Russia is going to do about it before we plunge headlong into it. Let us take a look at what its implications are. You remember, Mr. Speaker, how some of us were called a bunch of fools because we attempted to get those facts before the people, to hold it up long enough to study the whole situation, all the implications of Bretton Woods. I just refresh your memory, Mr. Speaker, that after Russia had succeeded in getting the rest of the nations into it, they backed out and have never come into the scheme. We succeeded in putting a millstone around our necks right here in Canada and so did the other nations that allowed themselves to be imposed upon in the same manner. Therefore I say, let us be pretty careful about how we jump into these things. If the minister insists, of course, that this protocol must be ratified by us quickly and without ample opportunity to inquire into the full meaning and implications of it, then the only thing I can say to him is that he will have to take the dreadful responsibility alone, as without a full knowledge of the facts and