

doing all that is possible to be done toward that end, are much in accord with his own. I have referred to only three personages, but I believe what I have just said would apply with equal truth to all hon. members of all parties in this parliament.

I sometimes think that we waste time when we endeavour to have it appear that any government of Canada, let alone members of parliament, are not desirous of doing everything possible to secure, to maintain and to further peace. That unquestionably is one of the objectives which we all have in common. We cannot all agree as to the methods by which peace can be best maintained, but the fact that we cannot accept every suggestion made as to what is desirable for the maintenance of peace does not and should not imply that we are not equally at one in desiring the great objective of securing, maintaining and furthering peace. In this regard I want to take exception to the view which so frequently has been put forward, and which was put forward by my hon. friend to-day, that any preparation in the nature of defence necessarily implies some love of war and desire to get into war on the part of those taking that necessary precaution. Nothing can be more fallacious than that; and, with the world condition as critical as it is to-day, I must respectfully say I do not think any member renders a useful service to his country when he seeks to create a false impression with respect to the purpose which defence is intended to serve. What is needed to-day on the part of the citizens of this country, as of all countries, is an understanding of the very serious nature of the world situation and of the very critical position in which this country along with all other countries may be placed at any moment. My hon. friend never said anything truer in his life than when he remarked that you can no more isolate war than you can isolate peace, and when this afternoon he stressed that there was a real danger of the situation which is critical in Europe extending to this country. I think we all have to keep that in mind. With what my hon. friend has said about the hideousness of war and about the folly of war as a means of settling anything I think every hon. member will agree. But, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the question of realizing that war is so horrible and yet, as my hon. friend has said, that with the world situation what it is, war may be inevitable, we only see the necessity of taking some special precaution so far as our own country is concerned to meet that situation.

May I suggest to my hon. friend and to others who feel as he does about this matter a parallel that may help to bring home the true situation? None of us has any love of disease, none of us has any love of plague, yet disease and plagues are part of a condition that is real in the world and against which steps have to be taken by nations as well as individuals. Would my hon. friend suggest that we should do away with our Department of Health and with the measures that we are taking, and which are costing a great deal, to prevent the spread of disease, to prevent plague from over-running the country? Money spent for purposes of that kind is spent for purposes of security, and it is exactly the same, if the expense is wisely made, with regard to necessary outlays for defence. May I suggest another parallel which, it seems to me, is very pertinent at the moment? We have all been witnessing with feelings of the deepest sympathy the tragedy to hundreds of thousands of lives in the United States as a result of floods. Those of us who happened to be listening last night to the radio heard instructions being given by engineers as to precautions that must be immediately taken in view of what is possibly a still greater disaster, once the Mississippi begins to overflow its banks to a greater extent than it has up to the present. Would any one say that, with a warning of that kind coming from experts, the people along the shores of the Mississippi should do nothing? Rather should they not say, "Now is the time for the state to take immediate action to prevent some terrible harm coming to innocent persons as the result of a force of nature the possible extent of which had not been foreseen but which nevertheless is now known to be real and is approaching daily in a more menacing form"? After what my hon. friend has said this afternoon he cannot deny that there are forces at work in the world to-day which are dangerous in the extreme, and he cannot deny that those forces may operate against the shores of this country, or across this country, once a world conflict comes about, should such an appalling thing happen. In those circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I say that instead of trying to persuade th' house or persons beyond this house that this country should not take special measures for purposes of defence, my hon. friend should be doing all in his power to show wherein, unless we take precautionary measures, we are likely to suffer in a way from which we may never recover.

I think also there is something extraordinarily contradictory in what my hon. friend said this afternoon when he spoke about the