

I believe that the United States will never let down her defence until she can get inside Russia and see what is going on. I went to the General Assembly with the feeling that a great number of Canadians have, namely, that we might have a war. I do not believe that now. I believe that in these international gatherings other nations will see what countries like Australia, New Zealand and ourselves are doing. And remember, we contribute more to their understanding than do the United States or the United Kingdom, because they know we have not the strength to stand up against them. I went out with the Iran delegate, and he said to me: "How do you people live opposite the United States? Do they not dictate what you will do and what you will not do?" I said, "No. Sometimes their politicians think they get the better of us, but in all the 120 years that we have had the international boundary they have never tried to dictate to us. You can ask your American friends, and they will give you the same answer." That is the sort of thing that illustrates to these people what democracy means. I shall go no further than that.

Just one more word. I am sorry that the ministers of the four great powers did not invite Canada and other nations to take part in the discussion of the peace treaty with Germany. I think they have made a grave mistake. I entirely agree with the government's action in this regard. I do not believe you can have a fundamental world-peace if you cannot enter into the terms of the peace. Take the countries that have made a great contribution. Canada is one of those countries and I feel that we should be asked to take part in making the peace. We more than any other country except Australia and South Africa—probably South Africa more—could give Germany an illustration of how democracy can work than anybody else. In New York there were a great many people from India, Australia, and South Africa, and we had many a pleasant discussion—a real family "confab." We discussed, for instance, the Spanish situation, and we agreed upon it unanimously. Everybody expressed opinions; nobody gave way; and I feel that we, especially South Africa, can give an illustration to Germany—perhaps not so much to Japan—of how democracy can function among nations if they have confidence in each other. Our First Great War Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, went to the peace conference which followed the war, and made a splendid contribution. He established the fact that Canada was a free and independent nation. I should like to have seen our present Prime Minister at the present peace conference in Germany.

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, the practice of expressing a word of appreciation to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne is even easier to follow on this occasion than it has been on many occasions in the past. I want to join with the honourable leader opposite in complimenting the honourable senator from Vancouver (Hon. Mr. McKeen) and the honourable senator from Grandville (Hon. Mr. Bouffard) upon the speeches that they delivered in this house yesterday, and I do so without in any way reflecting upon the excellent speeches that I have heard on similar motions since I have been a member of the Senate. I admired the eloquence of the honourable gentleman from Vancouver and the logical manner in which he marshalled his arguments; and I could not but feel that in him the west coast of Canada has a great champion. I listened as well with the utmost pleasure and admiration to the speech of the honourable gentleman from Grandville. Like the honourable leader opposite, I am frank to say that I could not follow it in every detail, but that I since have had the opportunity of reading a translation, and wish to congratulate the honourable gentleman upon his splendid speech. I admired and envied the facility with which he moved from the French language to the English.

I confess to you, honourable senators, that I never regretted anything so much as my inability to express myself in the two official languages of Canada while at the United Nations meetings in New York. How I envied our distinguished leader Mr. St. Laurent, who moved so gracefully among the delegates of all the countries represented there! I envied not only his knowledge of the French language, which was understood by practically 99 per cent of the delegates, but his ability to say the polite thing, the nice thing, on the appropriate occasion. I thought of that as I listened to the seconder of the address yesterday. To my English compatriots in this chamber and in this country I say that even if we have been so mentally lazy or indifferent as not to acquire facility in the French language ourselves, let us by every means in our power encourage our children and our children's children to acquire that facility, for it is a great advantage.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: And to my French compatriots I would say: Encourage those with whom you come into contact to