

Words, of course, are quite insufficient to describe the horror that every one of us feels at this crime, and to express our deep commiseration with the inhabitants of the unfortunate land of Czechoslovakia, and also with those in this country who are of Czech blood and ancestry.

But it is not for that purpose that I have risen this afternoon. It is to make a suggestion by which this foul outrage can be avenged and its repetition perhaps prevented. I hasten to say that this is not a suggestion originating with myself. It was made about a week or ten days ago by that well-known columnist Dorothy Thompson in her daily column; and no doubt a number of honourable senators have read it. But it derives additional significance from the crime of Lidice. It is a suggestion which is made possible by the great and growing superiority of the Allied Nations over the air of Western Europe.

It is this. The Allies should now announce over every radio, to occupied Europe and to Germany, that Lidice has been destroyed, and that they intend to take immediate vengeance by bombing out of existence one or more villages in the heart of Germany. The general districts in which these villages are situated should be specified, but not, of course, the villages themselves. That would ensure a general state of terror and alarm throughout the districts mentioned. Then the Allied forces should proceed at the first favourable opportunity to wipe out a German village in each of these districts. After that they should make the widest possible announcement over the European radio of what they have done and why they have done it, and give notice that it will be done again if the Nazi authorities perpetrate any further crimes like the crime of Lidice.

Quite apart from the question of vengeance, as Miss Thompson says, such a course of action would have two obvious advantages. Firstly, if anything will deter the Nazis from repeating this crime, that will do it. Their own people will have suffered as a direct result of their action, and every village throughout Germany will have a vital interest in preventing a repetition. Secondly, and far more important, it will have a great effect on the morale of the conquered peoples of Europe. They will know and will realize that their sufferings are being watched by powerful allies, and that each specific crime committed against them by the masters of the German people is being at once avenged in kind upon the German people.

After all, honourable senators, these Czechs are our allies. We count on them now for acts of sabotage against the German forces,

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN.

and we shall have to count on them still more when the Allied Nations invade the continent of Europe, as they inevitably will. I say we count on them. They in turn have a right to count on us. We are in honour bound to do everything we can to bolster their morale, to show them that their heroic struggle is not in vain, and to encourage them to go on. That is one thing that our military chiefs can do now, and that is why, it seems to me, Miss Thompson's suggestion should now be brought to their attention. It is, of course, merely a suggestion. No civilian could do anything more than make a suggestion to the Allied military authorities. No civilian is in a position to judge and properly estimate all the factors of material, power, munitions and so forth that are involved. Therefore it can only be a suggestion coming from the civilian population. But I think I can confidently say this: if the Allied military authorities decide to adopt such a course, it will meet with the enthusiastic approval, not only of this House, but of this country.

Hon. J. A. CALDER: Honourable members, may I say a word in reference to this matter which has just been brought up? I am sure we are all absolutely horrified at what took place and has been reported. When I read it in the Press I could not help saying to myself, "Something must be done to stop what is occurring in the world." I had not read Miss Dorothy Thompson's article and did not know that she had made the suggestions just referred to.

The United Nations have very distinctly told Germany that if she uses gas, they will use gas in abundance. We all know what the use of gas means, and the results of it. Briefly, what the United Nations have done is this: they have simply said, "You shall not use that horrible thing and cause those terrible sufferings which result from gas; but if you do use it, you shall be punished." In the same way the Allied Nations have served very definite notice on Japan. Japan has been using gas on civil populations. Gas could not be used over England to any great extent without reaching the civil population.

Well, to my mind, this horror that is occurring in Europe is worse than any gas used in war, and I thoroughly agree with what the honourable gentleman from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) has said, that it is time to do something about it. We do not like the idea of vengeance, but how in the world are these horrible things to be stopped unless the people who are doing them are taught a lesson? They would never be stopped; they would go from bad to worse,