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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY: The House of Commons on March 28 voted practically unanimously for the motion of the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, calling for parliamentary approval of the draft terms of the North Atlantic Treaty. The vote was 149 to 2, dissenters being Messrs. Raymond and Hamel, Bloc Populaire members. The House applauded when the Prime Minister crossed the floor to shake the hand of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Drew, after the latter had expressed hope for unanimous approval.

Following are brief excerpts from the speeches of the Leaders in debate:

Mr. St. Laurent: "... This treaty is to be far more than an old-fashioned military alliance. It is based on the Common belief of the North Atlantic nations in the values and virtues of our Christian civilization. It is based on our common determination to strengthen our free institutions and to promote conditions of stability and well-being. It is based on the belief that we have in our collective manpower, in our collective natural resources, in our collective industrial potential and industrial know-how, that which would make us a very formidable enemy for any possible aggressor to attack.

"Of course it is not easy to venture forecasts, or to attempt to say what might have been in history; but one can wonder. The

purpose of the Treaty is to preserve the peace of the world by making it clear to any potential aggressor that, if he were so unwise as to embark on war he might very well finish up in the condition in which the Kaiser found himself after the first Great War. He might very well find himself in the position in which Hitler and Mussolini found themselves after the second terrible war. They were not told in advance what they would have to take on and overcome. I think it is fair, both to ourselves and to any possible aggressors, to tell them in advance that, if they attempt anything, they will have to overcome those who were great factors in preventing the realization of the hopes of the Kaiser and of Hitler and Mussolini.

"This is not a treaty to make war. It is intended by us, and intended by the others who participate in it, as the best possible insurance against war at the present time, in view of the inability of the United Nations to give us that insurance...."

Mr. Drew: "... As we acclaim this declaration of collective responsibility for the defence of freedom, let us remember that words in themselves offer little assurance of security through the years ahead. Far more important than anything stated by written words is the spirit behind those words and the extent