

*The Address—Mr. Regier*

upon the other. The last two wars were wars of alliances of nations against alliances of nations.

For the record I should like to make it perfectly clear here that at this stage I do not oppose but rather endorse the use of force which may be necessary for the maintenance of law and order. But such force must be exercised by some authority which is higher than those who are involved in the argument. As long as the United Nations is the United Nations and not the Soviet union or the United States I am in hearty agreement with the use of military force by that body for the maintenance of world peace.

I have examined the brief prepared by the Canadian Legion, and I ask the government to recognize the reasonableness of what the Legion is asking for. These members of the Legion offered everything on behalf of those people who were able to stay at home and make money, as a lot of us were. Many of us were able to make money only because there was a war and other people were laying down their lives. I say that our government should get away from associating our veterans with the poorhouse. Rather let us regard the veteran as having earned a decent standard of living. Even if the Legion are granted everything they ask in their brief I am sure we will not be giving one cent more than these veterans so well deserve. I hope that at this session the government will see that justice is done to these people.

Returning to the subject of world peace, which I submit is our greatest problem today, let us keep the conference table of the United Nations. Let us make that conference table ever larger, until it takes in all the peoples of the world. Let us give to that body military power sufficient to enforce its decisions, and also the goods with which it can take action to eliminate some of the roots of war.

Canadian people are most anxious to preserve and extend the influence of the United Nations, despite what some hon. members to my left may say. I believe the Canadian people would heartily endorse such action if instead of spending 50 per cent of our income on defence the government spent half of that—I am speaking for myself now—in making the United Nations militarily powerful and the other half in giving to the United Nations the material goods, our wheat, our fish, our lumber and what not, in order to remove the causes of war in the hungry nations of the world. I repeat that we should do everything to make for a better conference table.

[Mr. Regier.]

Let us beware of being only a satellite at the conference table. We are in a most fortunate position, we are a most fortunate nation. Those of you who know the Mennonites are aware my forefathers did not come from the Soviet union. They came here a hundred years ago, but some 40,000 Mennonites have come from behind the iron curtain since 1917 and know what communism is. We can say to international communism and to international monopoly capitalism "a plague on both your houses; we want neither of you." One leads to fascism and the other is communism, both equally bad.

We want world peace and prosperity and we will use all our power to keep the representatives of all nations around the conference table. We will throw our full weight behind such nations as those of the commonwealth, the Scandinavian countries, western European and southern Asiatic nations, all of whom are desperately looking for our leadership.

Although I do not know all the secrets of international diplomacy I am sure that when the former prime minister of Great Britain visited Washington and when the present Prime Minister of Great Britain visited Washington, it indicated that the people of Great Britain, once under a Labour government and again under a Tory government, had prevented us from entering a third world war. We should be ready to help those people who want world peace. The people of Great Britain knew they had nothing to gain from a third world war, and I am convinced that they will do everything possible to prevent such a war occurring.

During the recent election campaign we heard a great deal about the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) being the founder of NATO. I should like to see him take a lead now as he did in NATO and organize the vast masses of humanity in the world who want to keep the peace. We should do everything we can to keep the two most powerful nations of the world away from each other. If our far north needs defence from attack I would be most happy to see the forces of the United Nations in our northland. We are a sovereign nation, and if we are prepared to relinquish some of our sovereignty—and I think we should be prepared to do so, as should all nations—then let us relinquish it to an international body which is representative of all the nations of the world and not to one state, regardless of how powerful that state may be.

We live in troublesome times, but mankind has always made its greatest advances during such periods. There are those who,