

North Atlantic Treaty

good many more questions. I certainly will listen with keen ears to the answers which he is prepared to give to the questions of the hon. member for Peel.

I do not see any use at this moment in extending my remarks. As I say, I have given the best thought of which I am capable to the full implications of what we are doing today; and I, speaking now for our Social Credit group here, say that we are favouring the approval by this parliament of the protocol, and that we would urge the minister to make available to the Canadian people—at different times as he goes along and as it becomes possible—all of the information that will enable them to judge of the full implications of the moves we are making, and to make clear to them what obligations they are taking upon themselves.

In conclusion, may I say this. In each step we take in extending the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, either in area or in more intensive policies, let us make sure—as sure as we possibly can be—that it is designed to increase the security of the free nations of the world and to make it possible for us to avoid war, if we can; but if we cannot avoid war, then to make certain that we are strong enough to repel any aggressor that might have an inclination to attack us.

Mr. Jean François Pouliot (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to what the minister has said and also to the excellent speeches made by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon), the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) and the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low), but I am not going to follow their lead. I am going to ask some questions of the minister and he may answer me later on.

In the first place he said that the Rome meeting was the eighth of the NATO council and that the work of the temporary council committee appointed by the council at its Ottawa meeting was examined, though in no official sense, because that work was not completed. He did not tell us what that work was. We may know what it was by a dispatch of the Associated Press which was published in the papers of the 27th of this month. I will translate that dispatch in a moment.

He added that the committee had the responsibility to match the requirements for defence and the resources of the separate members of the council which could be devoted to that defence, having regard to their political and economic capabilities. This is enormous. It is a decision of far-reaching importance to Canada as well as to the other

[Mr. Low.]

countries represented on the council. He said in a rather jocular vein that it is a "burden-sharing exercise". The burden may be heavy, and we are interested in knowing what it is. I hope the minister will be more explicit in that regard. Then he added that the executive committee of this committee of twelve, also popularly known as the "three wise men", have made a report to the committee of twelve which will give final consideration to it in Paris on January 15. There are a lot of committees, and one reason why I was in favour of NATO was that all the nations were on the same footing apparently, while they were not in the United Nations Organization because the security council was deciding matters pertaining to all. But in this case I thought that all the countries of NATO were on the same footing. Now there is a committee of "three wise men" who report to the committee of twelve which is not the whole Atlantic council. It is quite embarrassing. One leads to the other. Perhaps it is a good thing not to make decisions right away. Perhaps it is good to temporize as did Fabius Cunctator; he used to temporize, to adjourn things until later on. Perhaps it is a wise move. I am not ready to say that it is wrong.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): He has had a lot of imitators.

Mr. Pouliot: Yes, but they are dead.

Mr. Brooks: Not all of them.

Mr. Pouliot: There may be some at these international organizations, but I do not happen to know them.

The report will be referred to the NATO council in Lisbon in February, and the minister added it is not desirable to say anything more about it because it has not been finally submitted to the government. Then he spoke of western Germany being included in the European defence force, and stated that important and far-reaching decisions regarding the defence of Europe would be taken at Lisbon. He spoke of peace with western Germany, which must be an easy thing because we have exchanged ambassadors with western Germany. The representative of Canada in Germany had his status raised from a minister to an ambassador, and we have a German gentleman here as ambassador of that country. The minister said that at Rome they also discussed the question of the reorganization of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which is becoming, in a sense, rather unwieldy. He referred to the streamlining of the whole organization.

We had the League of Nations, and it is dead. We had the United Nations, and you