

*NATO—European Defence Community*

country at a time like this when the world is in desperate need of goods of all kinds. Surely we should welcome the effort of any country to go all-out in order to produce goods and services for the people of the world. That is particularly so now when 1,200 million people in this world go to bed hungry almost every night of the year and when those 1,200 million people in what we call the underprivileged and underdeveloped areas of the world are looking to the west for assistance by way of the things that we can produce and send to them.

It looks to me as though we should welcome the efforts of countries like Germany to produce all-out and to make their production available to the world. If we are ever going to convince Germany and other countries of this world that their productive enterprise is welcome, that we must give encouragement everywhere to all-out production and to see that that production is distributed equitably throughout the world it is necessary for us to institute a new idea of decent treatment between peoples and nations. We cannot do it by imposing upon them restrictive trade treaties. I am just afraid, Mr. Speaker, that that is one of the things involved in this whole question of Germany.

We are today talking about the peace treaty, the unification of Germany and rearmament in relation to this protocol. I want to impress upon the members of this house that if the rearmament of Germany is to be accomplished without grave danger to the rest of the world, it will have to be done under a relationship that will bring home to the people of Germany the idea that the western powers are going to treat them decently, and that they will be given a decent opportunity to produce and to distribute the goods that they can produce so that the peoples of the world can have them. Unless that is done, we are just going to push such countries as Germany right back into the position in which they were prior to world war II when they felt that they simply had to break out and resort to arms in an effort to breathe.

I am just as satisfied as I am that I stand here of the fact that one of the reasons why Germany went to war in 1939 was that she felt she simply could not continue to operate under the restrictions in trade which were being imposed on her. I am not trying to excuse for one moment what Germany did. I have always been prepared to join with those who set out to put down aggression and any unwarranted armed conflict of any kind anywhere. I think we must learn to understand; and to understand, it is necessary for us to get at the root of

[Mr. Low.]

things. In my judgment, one of the things that are complicating the present European situation is the fear that Germany will once again dominate the whole of Europe in the matter of productive potential, particularly in industry.

The United States and other countries of the world have been sending into Europe large sums of money and large gifts of equipment, material and food to help those countries to bring themselves back and to get into a position in which they can take care of their own needs. Now that the United States and the other "have" countries have at least partially accomplished their objective, they then turn right around, put up high tariffs and impose trade restrictions upon them so that they cannot get rid of their goods. What kind of a paradoxical situation is that, Mr. Speaker? It is that paradox which must be solved if we are ever to achieve peace in this world. Surely in a world of potential abundance it is unthinkable to allow want, frustration, deprivation and fear of the future to continue to exist amongst at least half the population of the world. I mention that matter because it is involved in this whole question of what to do about Germany in the future.

I agree with the hon. member for Rose-town-Biggar when he said that rearmament of Germany must be carried on under the strictest possible supervision. I do not know how long that supervision can last. That is one of the imponderables. At the present time it would be quite possible to see that what German troops are raised, armed and equipped should be officered by North Atlantic Treaty Organization officers; but that does not mean to say that they will be able to continue to officer them and to control them in the years ahead. We do not know for how long that will be possible. So, Mr. Speaker, what I said earlier I must emphasize once more, namely that we should not rush into the ratification of a protocol of this nature until we have given it much more study than we have been able to give it thus far. There are too many dangers involved.

In the course of his speech this morning, the minister laid some emphasis on the development of a united Europe. In the course of his statement he mentioned the functional integration of Europe; that is, he stressed the functional approach rather than the formal federation approach. I would be much more impressed by the minister's statement wherein he said European unity—that is, the full integration of Europe—should grow and not be imposed, if the facts of history did not definitely indicate that the integration is being forced and has actually been planned and forced for many years.