

*External Affairs*

facing. It is the return to nationalism or to what Walter Lippmann recently described as "cantankerousness under the guise of patriotism".

I thought that was very well put and I hope when the minister replies at the conclusion of this debate he will inform the house what has been and is being done under article 2 of the North Atlantic treaty, or what is proposed.

I come now to a question on which I particularly want to say a few words this afternoon because I feel very keenly about the matter. What I have to say this afternoon represents the opinions of a good many veterans in my constituency and a good number of Canadians throughout Canada. I refer to the question of German rearmament, and I want to say that in this respect it is my opinion that history is clearly repeating itself. Two generations of youth of major countries have been sacrificed to repel unprovoked and brutal aggression on the part of German forces. The first world war was fought to make the world safe for democracy. At least, that was the slogan at that time. What was the result? Read the histories after the first world war. Read Ludendorff, and Field Marshal Kesselring, who completed his memoirs just last year. The former commanders of the German army were not long in making their plans behind the facade of the Weimar republic to build up the German general staff while they kept the facade of the republic going. For some years it was the German general staff and the German military clique, over the opposition of the democratic socialists who wanted to maintain and improve the republic, that planned a second venture in aggression and brought Hitler to power. At that time the German generals were assisted by the major industrialists who used the republic as a screen for their co-operation with the re-formed general staff and the final build-up of Hitler and the second world war aggression. I might say that the first memorandum with respect to the bringing together of the former general staff, which was supposed legally not to exist, and the working in co-operation with the major armament manufacturers, was actually drafted in 1924.

We had a second world war fought to defeat nazism and fascism and to build a world based on the principles of the Atlantic charter, in which a great many people lost their lives. So far as I can see, Mr. Speaker, the result is that the same old gang are getting into power again. The military clique in Germany is gaining power daily and the industrial leaders, many of whom supported Hitler, are now increasing in power. The

very people who opposed Hitler, and were our allies in spirit although they could not take much action under the tyranny of the nazi regime, are being pushed aside and having less and less to say in Germany today. I get a lot of information from considerable reading, and from a good many relatives and friends who have a considerable interest in continental and international affairs.

What do we find in Germany now? Large numbers of former nazi officers are holding office under the present German government. I believe something like 46 per cent of the office holders in the present German government were former officers of the nazi regime, while many who opposed Hitler are ignored. To illustrate the sentiment that exists in my own district, I want to quote from the *Nelson Daily News* of Friday, April 24, 1953. This is a conservative newspaper, but it often takes a different view from that of my friends on the right as well as on the left. The leading editorial is headed, "A disturbing sign," and reads as follows:

There are many more nazis in the west German foreign office at Bonn today than there were in Berlin under Hitler, according to Mr. William L. Shirer. Having lived in Hitler's Germany, this correspondent makes a good witness. He may be overstating the case to some extent, but unfortunately facts generally known tend to bear him out. Relatively few nazis were punished for their affiliations, and of the relative handful who drew prison terms, most have been released. These are considered to have atoned for their errors, and gradually have been accepted in post-war German life. But by and large they have not changed their beliefs or their ways.

That is clearly indicated if you read some of the German papers and find out their position on the situation now.

This pattern is not peculiar to Germany. It has become apparent in Italy as well, although possibly on a less menacing scale. There fascism is impeded by governmental edict, but neo-fascist groups are operating more or less openly, and showing many of the old characteristics . . .

The resurgence of nazi-fascist arrogance so soon after those movements were overpowered by force of arms is a disturbing sign. How to deal with them is a problem, but one lesson learned is that they will not be swayed or impressed by moral suasion.

That means they are not to be swayed or impressed by the use of the methods of democracy, by argument and moral suasion. We read in the papers of war criminals being released, returned to private life and being honoured by their fellow citizens in the various communities from which they come. In many cases also we read of their being at veterans meetings and being acclaimed as leading people so far as these Germans are concerned.