

cracy. In a democracy the will of the majority must prevail; but a majority should not impose a decision that is not in the real interests of the community, or without giving careful consideration to the views of the minority and the reasons for those views. And I think that when the time comes for a decision as to whether this will be proceeded with or not, the Canadian government and the United Kingdom government will have to take into consideration the facts as they will have appeared from the vote of the people of Newfoundland.

Then the hon. member for Stanstead asked me to deal with two or three other questions, one of which had to do with the St. Lawrence seaway. Members of the committee will recall that the basic agreement was signed in March, 1941, was referred to the senate committee on foreign affairs in the United States, and favourably reported upon this year. But it was recommitted to the committee on foreign affairs by a vote in the senate of the United States on February 27, 1948. That was a vote of fifty-seven to thirty. It is therefore not being proceeded with expeditiously by the United States senate.

There have been reports in the newspapers as to the desire of Ontario and the state of New York to proceed with certain power developments; but there have been no official communications to the government of Canada in that regard and, so far as I know, no application to the international joint commission with respect thereto. There is nothing I can communicate to the committee beyond the information I have obtained from the reading of reports in the newspapers.

Then the hon. member asked me about the royal style and titles. As hon. members will recall, an act of this parliament was passed last year expressing the acquiescence of Canada in the dropping from the royal style and titles of the words, "Emperor of India". We are informed that a proclamation will be issued by His Majesty fixing June 22 as the date from which those words will be dropped from the royal style and titles in the United Kingdom, and the governor in council has adopted a minute of council to have a notice to that effect published in the official gazette, when we get confirmation that that is the date to be acted upon in the United Kingdom.

The hon. member asked if there had been any changes in our relations with the South African government since the election. There have been no changes.

Then he asked what has been done toward building up our relations with western Europe and other members of the commonwealth. There has been nothing accomplished, but what we have been doing was recently reported in

the *Ottawa Journal* as a crusade by Canada for the completion of a western union or north Atlantic regional pact. I think that title, of course, perhaps justly describes the attitude we have adopted. We feel that, should war break out that affected the United Kingdom and the United States, we would inevitably be involved and that there might be great value in having consummated a regional pact whereby these western European countries, the United Kingdom and the United States and ourselves, would guarantee each other's security.

We had hoped that the united nations would guarantee the security of all of us, but that has not been accomplished, and we think there would be value in a regional pact whereby these western European democracies, the United Kingdom, the United States and ourselves agreed to stand together, to pool for defence purposes our respective potentials and co-ordinate right away our forces, so that it would appear to any possible aggressor that he would have to be prepared to overcome us all if he attempted any aggression.

We do not think a pact that did not include those major powers would be sufficiently impressive to require us to be a party to it. We think this western union is a good thing, but our adhesion to it without the United States would add very little to it. We are hopeful that it will develop into something which will comprise the United States along with those who are already members, and in that event we think the people of Canada would wish that we also be associated with it, not because we want to assert domination over anyone, but because we realize that if the group in this regional pact became involved in war we would necessarily be involved with them.

That is something that the people of Canada might prefer to avoid, but it is something which they could not avoid even if they wished to. That being so, if there is any value in preparedness we think the people of Canada would be glad to see us making that preparation in a co-ordinated fashion with others whose way of life is the same as ours and whose security is part of our own security. That has not proceeded very far, although there has been the adoption by an overwhelming majority in the United States senate of Senator Vandenberg's resolution recommending the setting up of such a security group.

The hon. member asked what our relations were with the members of the commonwealth. Our relations with the members of the commonwealth revolve around the United Kingdom as being the pivot of the commonwealth. We do not think anything that the United