

The Address—Mr. St. Laurent

to deter any aggressor who might otherwise feel disposed to repudiate the solemn undertaking he signed at San Francisco.

There is no use deceiving ourselves or mincing words. We know that the people of the North American continent, that the people of the democracies of western Europe, fear there may be an aggression from this great power which was allied with us in the last war but which professes an ideology that would necessarily exclude the civilization under which our institutions have been established. We fear that those totalitarians who direct that great mass of human beings might attempt, by force, to impose their ideology upon the rest of the world. But we believe they are realistic, and we believe that, if we can negotiate with them from strength, they will be apt to feel there would be considerable risk in starting any war. We believe they will not start any war they are not confident they can win.

We believe that those we mentioned as the likely signatories of this North Atlantic pact have the potential strength, manpower, industrial know-how, material, the courage and desire to remain free men which would make it very doubtful that any aggressor could overcome them. We are forming or hope to form the alliance not for the purpose of having to fight together—of course we will if it is imposed upon us, but it is not for that purpose. Primarily, it is being formed for the purpose of doing that for which the charter of the united nations was signed at San Francisco in 1945.

It seems to me that any free man in any of our countries should have no greater hesitation in having his country become a party to that North Atlantic security pact than he had in having his country become a signatory to the San Francisco charter.

Now, that is the matter in the international field which His Excellency says, in the speech from the throne, is the first concern of his government. The second paragraph reports that, in spite of the unsettled and disruptive activities of international communism, the nations of western Europe are making progress towards recovery, and that North America is contributing substantially to the restoration of economic activity, thereby increasing their own power to resist aggression, either within or from outside. I think that is a statement which needs no development here. We all know that has been happening, and we know how effective it has been. From the elections that were held in Italy, we know what a partial restoration of economic activity in that country was able to do in repelling aggression from within.

It is said that an offensive for peace is now being pushed by the eastern powers. This

has been mentioned by the communist leader in Italy as well as by the communist leader in France. If it is anything but a sham, those leaders have a wonderful opportunity, as Mr. Lippmann pointed out in an article which I think was in yesterday's newspaper, of demonstrating their sincerity. If they will instruct their fellows to help rather than resist the restoration of economic activity in their respective countries, then we may be able to believe that this peace offensive is more than a sham, and that it is the expression of some desire by the rulers of these totalitarian states to put an end to this enervating cold war that has been having such serious effects throughout the world.

At home the situation is one that the speech comments upon as being a cause for rejoicing and satisfaction. Just let me put three or four sets of figures on record in that connection. We say that the economy of the country is buoyant. Last year the gross national production, according to the best available statistics, was \$15,500,000,000 as compared with something of the order of \$5 billion or \$6 billion in the years which preceded the war. The present estimates for 1949 are \$16,550,000,000. The salaries, wages and supplementary labour income for 1948, or the amounts distributed to wage earners and salary earners, totalled \$7,135,000,000. The estimate for 1949 is \$7,810,000,000. The number employed in 1948 in civilian employments was 4,890,000 and, in the armed forces, 35,000. The estimate for 1949 is 4,966,000 in civilian employments and 42,000 in the armed forces. Those are figures which are significant of the activity which is prevailing in this country and they are, I think, a justification for the further statement that progress towards social justice for all in any country is an effective safeguard against the effect and influence of subversive doctrines.

The next matter dealt with in the speech from the throne is the union between Newfoundland and Canada. I think all hon. members in this house look upon that as an achievement, not an achievement of mine or of any one of our colleagues, but rather an achievement of the Canadian people in bringing about a situation where the people of Newfoundland desire to become associated with us as one nation. It is a matter which should be consummated by March 31. This afternoon I indicated what were the steps which must be completed before the union could become effective, and what would happen if those steps were not completed by March 31. I think there are quite a number of people in Canada and perhaps quite a number who are not yet Canadians but who, under this arrangement, will become Canadians, who will have noted the attitude of the