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Parliament

"GAINS AND LOSSES FC"

MR. EDEN'S REVIEW OF AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF LORDS

THURSDAY, NOV. 5

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at half past two o'clock.

The LORD CHANCELLOR introduced the Statute Law Revision Bill, which was read a first time.

"SENSE OF FEAR" IN U.S.

DEFENCE AGAINST ATOM BOMB

The debate was resumed on the motion for an Address in reply to the Queen's Speech.

LORD HENDERSON said that there were differences in emphasis, timing, and attitude in Anglo-American relations which seemed at times to be serious. He had recently been to America for a short visit and had returned with an impression which he believed had a bearing on these differences. There was a sense of fear there in spite of a pride in the enormous strength and power of the United States. He did not suggest that he found any American panicky or defeatist; that would be the reverse of the truth.

The impending danger from which that fear sprang was a sudden and unannounced atom bombing attack.

The experience of Pearl Harbour had left a scar on the American conscience, and the Americans were resolved that there should never be another and more terrible experience like that. It might be that because American newspapers had been able to devote pictures, reports, and discussions to atom bomb tests and development the American public was more atom bomb conscious than we were. Whatever the reason the difference of attitude existed on either side of the Atlantic. We in this country regarded the attack as less imminent or probable, or we were more fatalistic or less imaginative. This same sense of fear in its most extreme and unreasoning form had produced the deplorable political witch-hunting associated with Senator McCarthy in relation to real and imaginary machinations of the agents of the Kremlin.

He had emphasized this sense of fear without trying to evaluate it. The Prime Minister, in that memorable passage in his speech on Tuesday, in which he dealt with the hazards of the atomic age and posed the choice for the nations of the world between mass annihilation and expansive abundance, was the spokesman for a humanity which was at once fearful and hopeful. The prime task of statesmanship was to find ways of alleviating that fear so that all the men in all the lands might live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.

ANSWER TO COMMUNIST TACTICS

All that was available to the public so far of the Russian reply to the latest Note of the western Governments, was the partial text published in *The Times* to-day, and a preliminary study of that seemed to warrant the conclusion that it was negative, unhelpful and frustrating.

There should still be a conference of the three western leaders, in Washington, for the west must regain the initiative and must not allow Communist tactics to hold us at bay. On his way to Washington the Prime Minister should attend the United Nations Assembly, and make there another solemn appeal for the leaders of Russia and the three western nations to get together. It would be difficult for the Russians to ignore such an appeal, and he begged the Prime Minister not to be daunted by the new difficulties which the Russians had created.

LORD LAYTON said that there were two outstanding questions on the Council of Europe. First, was the six-Power organization which had evolved in the last two or three years in Europe basically right, or were we pursuing the wrong course? Should we endeavour to bring the European defence under N.A.T.O., or not? Second, was it mistimed, and should we postpone our efforts to secure the coming into effect of the Council of Europe? He believed the answer to both questions was emphatically "No!"

The last German election was the most amazing phenomenon of recent years. When one considered the events of the last 30 or 40 years and the overwhelming vote cast by the German people for fusion and absorption into a European framework it must be recognized that something profound had happened. The mistakes of the past should not be repeated, but a place should be found here and now for Germany in the free comity of nations to enable her to develop her resources and use her energies for the common good.

VISCOUNT ELIBANK said that the sensible course seemed to be to improve east-west trade in the hope that it would help international relations. The embargo on the export of non-strategic goods to China was being observed more strictly by this country than by other nations. If the large-scale trading between China and Hongkong was not resumed Hongkong would dwindle in importance.