

FOREWORD

MR. BENJAMIN A. JAVITS (Temporary Chairman): Ladies and Gentlemen, we are met to-day to have presented to us a great question, one which of necessity must vitalize the thinking faculties of every man and woman here.

This is a great battlefield. This should be the only kind of a battlefield that thinking men and women should visit. It is to be regretted that a great many of the questions which face nations and human beings are not debated more often.

It is a pleasure, I am sure, and a privilege for all of us to have two noted men such as Mr. Scott Nearing (applause) and our friend from across the sea, Mr. Bertrand Russell (applause), take opposite sides of a proposition which undoubtedly is one that concerns every man, woman and child in the world to-day.

Your interest in the subject has brought all of you here. Those of you who came here with a set thought, or rather set thoughts and set convictions, for the side that Mr. Nearing is going to uphold, will

have the pleasure and privilege of being battered to a pulp by Mr. Bertrand Russell. On the other hand, those of you who have non-assailable notions and redoubtable reason for maintaining the position that Mr. Russell is going to hold up in this debate will have that valiant spirit or that valiant champion of independent thought and independent action, Mr. Scott Nearing, to contend with.

And those of us, or rather all of us, whether we have thought on one side or have made our decision on one side of the proposition or on the other side of the proposition—and I don't believe there are any here who haven't any thoughts at all—will have the pleasure and privilege of having the debate conducted by a man of international fame, of international reputation, and himself a great debater and a fighter for what he believes to be right at all times, Mr. Samuel Untermyer. (Applause.)

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Chairman of the afternoon, Mr. Untermyer. (Applause.)