

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

MR. LAPOINTE ON SPAIN: On October 31, the United Nations ad hoc Political Committee approved a resolution which would allow Spain to belong to such special UN agencies as the World Health Organization and which also called for the rescinding of the 1946 UN recommendations that all member countries withdraw their Ambassadors or Ministers from Madrid. The vote in Committee on October 31 was 37 in favour of the resolution, including Canada, 10 against and 12 abstentions.

In discussing the resolution in the Committee on October 28, Mr. Hugues Lapointe, Representative of Canada, spoke in part as follows:

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

"...Many of us, and I may confidently say the vast majority of us, do not subscribe to the totalitarian theory of government. We firmly believe that such a theory of government does not take into account the fundamental aspirations of mankind for freedom of thought and freedom of action. It is, in fact, a direct negation of the intrinsic worth of the individual human personality. Accordingly, we cherish the hope that the Spanish people may, by some measure of association with the democratic nations of the world, begin to enjoy more fully those indispensable freedoms which we have for so long been accustomed to regard as our basic birthright.

"But these are considerations which, it appears to the Canadian Delegation, lie outside the scope of the present draft resolution. It is intended neither to endorse nor to denounce the political system by which the people of Spain are being governed today...."

In discussing the operative sections of the resolution, Mr. Lapointe said, in part:

"...I need hardly emphasize that the act of accreditation of a head of mission is one initiated solely in the interests of the accrediting nation and does not carry with it any implication of approval of the domestic policy followed by the Government of the receiving State.

"Furthermore, it should be obvious that the interests of the accrediting nation require most careful attention in the case where the Government of the receiving State is in general disfavour. The task of safe-guarding these

interests is merely rendered more difficult by depriving the Embassy or Legation of its accredited head, who alone has access to the highest officials of the receiving State....

"....Paragraph 2 of the joint draft resolution would rescind the recommendation that Spain be debarred from membership in international agencies established by or brought into relationship with the United Nations. When this recommendation was put to the vote in December 1946 the Canadian Delegation opposed it and the views of the Canadian Delegation in this respect have not changed.

"The Canadian Government has always considered that membership in the specialized agencies should be determined solely on the basis of whether or not the participation of a state would serve to extend the scope and increase the effectiveness of the activities of those agencies, and that each application for membership should be dealt with on its merits by the agency concerned.

DETRACTED FROM EFFICIENCY

"It appears to us that the decision of the General Assembly to exclude Spain from participation in the work of the specialized agencies has only served to restrict their fields of operation and, consequently, has detracted from their technical efficiency. It is obviously to the advantage of all states members of the United Nations that Spain should be enabled to accept the obligations and restraints imposed by membership, as well as the benefits which such membership would confer upon the Spanish people.

"In the view of the Canadian Delegation universality of membership should be the goal of the specialized agencies without reference to political considerations. By rescinding the recommendation by which Spain has been excluded from participation, the General Assembly would be endorsing the principle of universal membership and thereby promote the successful implementation of the objectives of the specialized agencies.

"In the light of the considerations I have endeavoured to put before this Committee, the Canadian Delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted jointly by eight delegations."

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There was a further increase in the Bureau's general wholesale price index to 173.6 in September from 168.5 in August, and 155.4 in September last year.

ceeding the aggregate for the full year 1949 by 3,569 units, and rising 36 per cent over last year's nine-month total of 216,867 units.

Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles during the first nine months of this year reached a total of 294,203 units. ex-

Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended October 21 climbed to a seasonal peak of 92,733 cars as compared with the revised total of 81,211 for the preceding week.