

*United Nations Agreement*

empire had a responsibility upon it, that responsibility was upon it last year. The Hindu is as much a human soul as any other human being in any part of the world, yet here in our own commonwealth, one of our own members was permitted to get to the point where thousands were starving and dying on the streets every day. Somebody has something to answer for there, and I do not know whether the parliamentary assistant has anything to say about that. He is a student of world affairs and I wish he would throw some light on it. I did read of course, after so many thousands had died upon the streets, that the Prime Minister of Canada offered to send them a shipful of wheat. That might be all right for the rest of them who were not yet dead, but we can sum it up by saying, once again, "too little and too late." We are asked to pass bills of this kind when such things are happening within our own empire, and that, I think, is something which should give us all considerable concern.

I am not very much disposed to favour international organizations. I think we must draw a distinction between international cooperation and international authority. I certainly believe in international cooperation, for as no man liveth unto himself, so it is true that no nation liveth unto itself; nevertheless, I am apprehensive when I think of the tendency of our times toward international control.

I am in favour of this bill, but I trust it is not the thin end of the wedge that is to be driven into our whole world scheme to let in further international organization that will control democratic countries from the top. I hope this is not one of the little cogs in the great big world machinery that eventually will be driven to squeeze from the sovereign people of Canada that which is their own sovereign right. The very moment anything comes up in this house that has any tendency to do that, then here is one who will not let it go by without voicing vigorous protest. However, this bill does not seem to me, at least on the surface, to contain those elements. It seems to me to be a bill whereby there is cooperation toward our fellow men in other parts of this unfortunate world.

Before I sit down I have something else to say with respect to the schedule and the signatories that are attached to it. As we all know, there are forty-four signatories representing forty-four separate countries. I notice very often throughout this document that one of the signatories has added a proviso before signing it. I cannot read all the languages but I can read a word or two here and there, and I think I am right when I say that every

[Mr. Hansell.]

one of these provisos is to the effect that this must not come into power until the signatory's own particular parliament or legislative authority has passed it. I am going to read those who have signed with that proviso: Chile, Columbia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Iran, Iraq, United Mexican States, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

I wish it to be noticed, and I am calling this to the attention of the committee, that all these thirteen signatories that refused to sign it as a contract, a binding force, until their own legislatures shall have passed it, were tiny countries. The reason I call that to the attention of the committee is this. Here is where the signatories of some smaller countries recognize the value of democracy. Now I say this, as I have said it before in this house. When certain trade agreements have been placed upon the doorstep of parliament the whole thing is signed, sealed and delivered before it ever comes to parliament, and what parliament is requested to do is to play the rubber stamp, so that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) can stamp us on that agreement.

That is the antithesis of true democracy. I may say too, by the way, that the big four, Great Britain, the United States, China and Russia, do not through their signatories make any such reservation. Our own minister at Washington, Mr. Leighton McCarthy, signed the agreement without any reservation whatsoever. I am beginning to think that democracy has gone from the shores of Canada. We have a government that is continually grinding out orders in council. The hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) has shown that time and again by questions on the order paper, whereby we see that these orders in council have been ground out continually. Not only that, but now we find that certain agreements are entered into, and if they were not now ratified by this parliament it would mean a want of confidence in and a censure upon our government.

Here we find agreements signed, and after they are already signed the Prime Minister trots down to parliament and asks us to be good boys and ratify what he has done. I for one am going to protest against that. There is no reason in the world why an agreement of this kind should not have been entered into as a sort of preliminary step, with each signatory going back to his country and explaining the agreement to his government, and his government coming to his parliament or his legislature and saying to the people, "Is this what you want?" That is the way it should be done, and I am getting tired of this—

Mr. MacNICOL: Everybody is.