

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT

KOREAN SITUATION DISCUSSED: By the formation of a Special Force for the service of the United Nations in Korea or elsewhere, Canada may have begun the establishment of United Nations forces, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, told the House of Commons on September 4, in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The Address was adopted on September 5, after the defeat of proposed amendments by the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Mr. Drew, and by the Leader of the C.C.F. Party, Mr. Coldwell. Mr. Drew's amendment would have had the House express regret "that your Excellency's advisers have failed to provide adequately for the defence of Canada and have failed to take steps to deal with inflation and the rapidly rising cost of living."

TEXT OF SUB-AMENDMENT

Mr. Coldwell's sub-amendment would have added the following words: "By the imposition of price controls and the provision of necessary subsidies; we regret further that your Excellency's advisers have failed to include in Canada's defence programme substantial economic aid for under-developed countries, for it is the opinion of this House that the spread of Communism cannot be prevented by military action alone, but only by the provision, in addition, of all possible assistance to bring about social and economic progress in such countries."

Although Opposition members criticized the Government for what was described as its "hesitation and evasion" over the sending of ground troops to Korea, the debate, which lasted five days, revealed almost complete unanimity on the two major issues discussed: the assumption by Canada of its obligations in the defence of Korea by United Nations forces against Communist aggression; and the necessity for greatly increased defence expenditures.

During the course of the debate Mr. Howard Green, Progressive Conservative, Vancouver-Quadra, urged that Canada help to bring about the creation of a Pacific Pact. In reply, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, stated that:

"... in our view it would be unwise for this Government at this time not only to take

any leadership in regard to a Pacific Pact but to participate in present circumstances in such a pact along the line of that which has been shown to be effective in the North Atlantic region. I say that because in the first place a particular procedure in regard to one region of the world is not necessarily the best procedure in regard to another; and that the conditions which made desirable, indeed even necessary, that kind of mutual guarantee pact in the North Atlantic do not exist in the Pacific at the present time, and I am sure no Hon. Member thinks that they do exist...."

Opposition Party Leaders and the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, had spoken previously in the debate, Mr. Drew and Mr. Coldwell submitting their proposed amendment and sub-amendment at the conclusion of their respective speeches. The following is an excerpt from the address of the Prime Minister:

OPTIMISTIC PROSPECTS

"...I was comforted by the optimistic prospects held out by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew). I hope and feel as he does that we may be not far from the dawn of an era of lasting peace. I read in a recent dispatch that a diplomat of great experience had said that the prospects of a decade of peace were brighter now than they had been at any time since the outbreak of this cold war. But some other had added: 'Provided we get through the next decade of months without war.' I am inclined to think that there is a lot of truth in that reservation. The free nations of the world are now undergoing a test which may be a very vital one. And when they do, as I hope and feel confident that they will, within the next ten months - demonstrate that united action by them can be effective to put down aggression, I think that we can look forward then with the confident expectations implied in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, to a long period of absence of war, if not full peace, because there cannot be full peace for us when we are in the throes of a nerve-racking cold war...."

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Drew, reiterated a request for the appointment of a Special Committee on Defence. He suggested that it should meet immediately; and that instead of this special session proroguing, it should adjourn and come back to hear a report by that Special Committee on national defence.

NEWFOUNDLAND WAGES: Average weekly salaries and wages in the major non-agricultural industries of Newfoundland in June ranged from a low of \$20.60 in the services industries to a high of \$47.91 in mining, according to first figures on employment and earnings in Newfoundland released by the Bureau of Statistics.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on August 17 totalled 89,146,000 bushels as compared with 93,521,400 a week earlier and 56,815,400 on the corresponding date last year.