

Starr, Minister of Labour, attended the Conference and spoke for Canada in the plenary session. At this session four new international agreements were adopted: a convention and a recommendation calling on ILO members to take steps to eliminate discrimination regarding employment and occupations, on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin; and a convention and a recommendation on the conditions of employment of plantation workers.

The 42nd session adopted a number of resolutions on such subjects as industrial health and safety, technical assistance, human rights, management development, and labour-management relations. Canada sponsored a resolution concerning measures to promote employment and to reduce the hardships of unemployment, by such means as resources development, housing improvement, reduction of trade barriers, measures to facilitate mobility of labour, and unemployment insurance. The resolution also urged member states to undertake studies on this problem and employers' and workers' organizations similarly to examine their policies and actions in relation to their effect on employment. The resolution finally requested that studies be undertaken by the Director-General on the subject of promoting and maintaining employment. It was approved by a vote of 166 in favour, 1 against, with 10 abstentions.

At this session also the ILO 1959 budget was approved, totalling about \$8.5 millions. Canada's assessment, which is calculated at the rate of 3.53%, will amount to a net contribution of \$261,416.

One of the more difficult problems facing the ILO in recent years has been the question of the seating of the employer delegates from the Communist countries of Eastern Europe on technical committees of the annual International Labour Conference. This question arises out of the tripartite structure of the Organization and the requirement that delegations of member states include delegates representing three distinct fields of interest — government, management and labour. In recent years, the employers group at ILO conferences has refused to include Communist employers delegates among their nominations of representatives to committees. They hold that Communist employers are indistinguishable from their governments and that, therefore, their delegates are out of place in bodies where they would be required to represent employers' interests. At the 41st session Communist employer delegates were refused full membership on the Conference committees. A proposal to grant them deputy membership was finally accepted by 122 in favour, 66 against and 37 abstentions. The Canadian Government Representative abstained on the vote for full membership and voted for deputy membership; the Canadian employer delegate voted against both proposals and the Canadian workers delegate abstained in each instance. At the 42nd session the same question was raised and the employer delegates of the Communist countries were not nominated by the employers group for seats on the Conference's technical committees. The voting in this instance was 53 in favour, 115 against (including the Canadian Government and employers delegates), with 51 abstentions (including the Canadian workers delegate). An amendment was then introduced, and subsequently defeated, to grant Communist employers deputy membership on committees. Sixty-three votes were recorded in favour (including the Canadian Government delegate), 97 against (including the Canadian employers delegate) and 53 abstentions (including the Canadian workers delegate). It is interesting to note that the employers group and the Communists joined forces to vote against the amendment as the Communist employer delegates had previously indicated