

## NORAD—Canada-U.S. Agreement

do this, but it has been the practice of Canadian governments since at least 1926, and I submit even before that, to ask parliament to approve the most important treaties, or those of a politically contentious nature, before their ratification is authorized by the governor in council. Such instances have been the peace treaties of 1919, and we all recall the insistence of Sir Robert Borden that the tri-partite arrangement between the United States, France and Great Britain, in so far as Canadian participation or involvement was concerned, should first of all be decided by the parliament of Canada. Then, of course, there were the North Atlantic Treaty and the recent amendments to the extradition treaty with the United States. It has been the custom in this house to obtain this approval in the form of joint resolutions introduced in the commons and the Senate to give an opportunity to both houses to debate and approve whatever arrangement has been made by the government of the country.

There have been many examples of this practice. In 1945 the Bretton Woods Agreements Act was referred to parliament by way of resolution; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Act; the Canada-United States treaty for extradition of criminals; ICAO and the two interim arrangements in connection therewith; all of the ILO conventions of that year were submitted to parliament in the particular way in which this particular matter is referred to parliament for its approval or disapproval in 1946 the UNESCO agreement; the world health organization, the Canada-Mexico trade agreement; the Canada-Columbia trade agreement; the Canada-United Kingdom financial agreement; in 1947, the peace treaties with Italy, Roumania, Hungary and Finland; in 1948, GATT was submitted to this parliament for approval; in 1949, in the first session, NATO, and the representatives at Washington were empowered to assist in the completion of the treaty. Then, later, the treaty itself was submitted to parliament for approval. Likewise, in that year the international wheat agreement was submitted to parliament, and so on year after year. It is clear that various treaties, conventions or exchange of notes on important matters in which this country had contracted important obligations have been submitted to parliament in accordance with the traditions well laid down in this house even before 1926. We have the statement of Mr. Meighen, a former leader of the Conservative party and a former prime minister of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Hon. members applaud. I hope they will applaud what he said. Here is what he said regarding a prospective imperial conference in the matter of imperial defence. Mr. Meighen said, as found at page 2641 of *Hansard* of April 27, 1921:

I can give the assurance, with all the emphasis that I can command, that no step whatever will be taken binding this country—indeed, no step can be taken, whatever might be the will of the representative of Canada, which would have force or effect before ratification by the parliament of this dominion.

Those were the words of a former leader of the Conservative party and if they were applicable in 1921 it seems to me that they have strong application at the present time particularly in a matter so important as that now confronting us.

**Mr. McPhillips:** How about the troops you sent to Hong Kong?

**Mr. Robichaud:** You should be on your way now.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** It will also be remembered that in 1926 the government of the day presented to the house a resolution in the following words:

This house approves of the procedure proposed for the negotiation, signature and ratification of treaties and conventions, and considers further that before His Majesty's Canadian ministers advise ratification of a treaty or convention affecting Canada, or signify acceptance of any treaty, convention or agreement involving military or economic sanctions, the approval of the parliament of Canada should be secured.

That resolution was passed by the house and I propose to quote some words of some hon. gentlemen at that time who sat on this side and who were spokesmen of the Conservative party at that time. In proposing the resolution, Mr. King, the then prime minister, said, as found at page 4768 of *Hansard* of June 21, 1926:

What I wished to make clear, however, was that all treaties or conventions involving military or economic sanctions must come before parliament, and where military or economic sanctions were involved I wished to make the terms broad enough to include agreements, so that in referring to treaties or agreements of any kind we would not have a difference over the mere use of words.

Then he said on April 12, 1928, when introducing the international sanitary convention, a convention that certainly did not have the implications of the international agreement before us, as found at page 1955 of *Hansard*:

I might say to my hon. friend first with respect to the course of procedure that is being adopted of having parliament approve this convention, that that course is in accordance with the principle underlying a resolution of this house which was introduced by myself a year or two ago and at