

now before me a statement made by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) who I regret is not in his seat at the moment, during the debate on a resolution proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) on February 4 of last year. I am quoting from Hansard, page 550. The Minister of Justice said:

But we must be able to defend our citizens against the madness of some present day rulers. If international chiefs or gangsters ever come to assail us in a mad impulse—because the world is mad at the present time—we cannot meet them with a declaration of neutrality.

What about Spain? When Spain was assailed by these chiefs and gangsters how did the Dominion of Canada meet the situation? By imposing an embargo on the means by which Spain could defend herself. If the people of Canada have the right to defend themselves from international chiefs, from gangsters, how can this country deny the right to any other nation to do the same? I think we all agree with the Minister of Justice in the statement I have quoted; but, as I have done, let us compare these fine sentiments with the actions of the government of which the minister is so important and influential a member. As I have already said, Spain is to-day assailed by the international chiefs and gangsters of Europe, and was assailed by the same gangsters in 1937 when the minister made that statement, and the reply of his government to the gangsters was to impose an embargo on munitions to Spain on the means by which she might defend herself.

The Prime Minister on March 17 said that no exports of munitions had been made from Canada to Germany and Italy. That may be true, but the point I wish to make is that so far as this government is concerned, so far as the laws of Canada are concerned, Germany and Italy could buy all the munitions and arms that they wanted to. But there was no reason why Germany and Italy should buy arms and munitions in Canada, because we were shipping to Germany and Italy the supplies from which they could manufacture these things for themselves, and they can do it far cheaper than we can. Germany and Italy may not have purchased arms and munitions, but as far as I know there were no legal restrictions on their doing so. I should like to quote another statement in the speech delivered by the Minister of Justice on February 4, 1937. This quotation will be found at page 547 of Hansard of that date. He was referring to the obligations of members of the League of Nations to help fellow members if attacked, and with reference to the reso-

lution of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre he said:

If this motion is adopted, we go out entirely from the concert of nations, and mind you, Mr. Speaker, it is not only to the League of Nations that we as a country have given pledges. When we signed the pact of Paris we pledged ourselves to consider as a criminal any nation which would try to effect the settlement of an international conflict by means of war or which would accept war as a national policy in solving disputes. In that pact of Paris which we signed and which was accepted here unanimously we declared that any nation taking that position would be an enemy of Canada. That is what is really stated in the pact of Paris, but my hon. friend brushes that aside together with the pact of the League of Nations.

I ask again, how did we come to the assistance of a fellow member of the league? Spain is a fellow member of the League of Nations. Germany is not, nor, technically, is Italy a member of the League of Nations. How have we come to the assistance of Spain? By imposing an embargo upon her and by allowing her aggressors to buy freely of everything they require which we can supply. And then we prate about international law and order and give lip service to democracy, and the Prime Minister says that we must be careful not to say or do anything which might embarrass the countries of Europe which are facing difficulties. He forgets altogether that Spain is the country in Europe to-day which has been facing the greatest difficulties during the past two years and that the action of his own government tended to add to those difficulties, to give encouragement and support and comfort to the aggressor nations, which we, according to our solemn pledges when we signed the League of Nations pact and the pact of Paris, are supposed to consider criminal. Let me say again that Spain is a sister member of the league, to which according to the statement of the Minister of Justice we have given pledges. Instead of denouncing Germany and Italy as criminals, we have acted toward Spain as if she were the criminal in this affair. Let us face the fact that we have made a mistake in imposing an embargo upon Spain, and let that mistake be rectified by the removal of the embargo. In the early days of the non-intervention committee, many thought that it might be used as a means if not of furthering peace at least of preventing the spread of war. A great many people had that feeling and many of them have now admitted their mistake.

Let me refer to a statement made by Sir Archibald Sinclair, the leader of the Liberal party in the British House of Commons, in a