

This statement, Mr. Speaker, and the action which we have now been called to take, will I hope help to dispose of these two matters in a way which recognizes both our responsibility to our own country, our responsibility to cooperate fully with others in our own as well as collective interests, in the effort to defeat and destroy the international communist conspiracy, which is very real and menacing and, finally, our responsibility to do what we can, always, and sincerely, to maintain good relations with our friend and neighbour the United States, the leader and great buttress of the free world. These relations, Mr. Speaker, involve between our two countries many problems of growing complexity. We accept that, but we take I think on both sides of the border deep and abiding satisfaction in the fact that we are able to solve them on the solid basis of mutual friendship, mutual understanding and mutual respect. And I know that, with a few inconsequential exceptions, all Canadians and all Americans, including all Hon. Members in this House, are anxious to keep it that way.

The Leaders of the three opposition groups commented briefly. The Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Mr. George Drew, after referring to the "great deal of confusion" which he felt had accumulated during the past week, said:

LEADERS' COMMENTS

"One of the things that I think must perhaps be in the minds of most of us is this: If there can be this much disturbance and the use of this amount of black ink over something which is of such relatively minor importance, I shudder to think of what might happen if the almost unbelievable event occurred that there was some real misunderstanding between Canada and the United States...."

C.C.F. Leader Mr. M.J. Coldwell, after a brief tribute to the Minister, said in part:

"I would also like to say that I think this House should back up the position taken by the Government of Canada. Obviously the request that came to the Government of Canada was that Mr. Gouzenko might be interviewed by a Senate committee of the United States on Canadian soil. I think the reply of the Canadian Government should meet with the approval of every Member of this House and of the public across this country...."

Social Credit Leader Mr. Solon E. Low said in part:

"May I start in by saying that this group approves the position taken by the Government as evidenced by the statement made by the Minister this afternoon as it affects Mr. Gouzenko and any statement that he may later make to the representatives of the United States. We think that if Mr. Gouzenko has something that he can contribute in order to help the people of the United States to expose and to root out espionage rings, Canada should, under

suitable circumstances, assist him in making a statement. But we support the conditions laid down by the Minister that due regard must be had for the security of that man. I think that no one in the House would find much fault with the statement made in that respect this afternoon...."

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LABOUR SITUATION: A considerable easing of labour supplies occurred in most Canadian labour market areas during October as is customary at this time of the year. Seasonal job opportunities declined sharply as the harvesting of a near-record crop was completed and as other seasonal industries became less active. In some areas, however, labour surpluses are developing more rapidly than usual for the season. This is partly owing to the completion of certain resource development and defence construction jobs and also to the levelling off of employment in a number of manufacturing industries, particularly durable goods firms, which were expanding more than seasonally a year ago. Persons with jobs declined by about 74,000 to 5,240,000, and the number of areas with slight labour surpluses increased from 19 to 37. Approximately 25 per cent of the paid workers were in areas with slight labour surpluses at November 1.

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NAVY BUYING JET FIGHTERS: The Royal Canadian Navy is now completing arrangements for the purchase of F2H3 Banshee all-weather jet fighter aircraft from the United States Navy to equip carrier-borne fighter squadrons, the Minister of National Defence announced on November 23.

The twin-engined Banshee jets will replace the propeller-driven Sea Fury fighters now in use in the RCN. The navy's first jet squadrons will not fly from HMCS Magnificent but will be embarked in the new Canadian aircraft carrier to be named HMCS Bonaventure, now building in the United Kingdom.

The Bonaventure will be equipped with a catapult which will enable the jets to be launched down or cross-wind, if necessary.

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MINESWEEPER COMMISSIONED: The first minesweeper to be built in Canada since the Second World War and the second of 16 wartime frigates to be modernized for the Royal Canadian Navy was commissioned November 26 at special ceremonies at Lauzon, Quebec.

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APPRECIATION TO 27TH: General Sir Richard Gale, Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Army Group in Europe, has cabled a message of appreciation to the officers and men of the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade, most of whom have been rotated or are being rotated to Canada.