

*NATO—European Defence Community*

Bill No. 342, for the relief of Doreen Elizabeth Lawton Batty.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 343, for the relief of Norma Meldrum Drysdale McGown.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 344, for the relief of Jean Elizabeth Wood Jackson.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 345, for the relief of Louisa Ryan Heke.—Mr. Winkler.

**ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND ACT****INCREASE IN RATE OF INTEREST ON MINIMUM MONTHLY BALANCES**

**Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs)** moved the second reading of Bill No. 334, to amend the Army Benevolent Fund Act, 1947.

**Mr. Brooks:** Will this bill go to the special committee on veterans affairs?

**Mr. Lapointe:** Yes, it is the intention to refer it as soon as second reading has taken place.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the special committee on veterans affairs.

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY****EUROPEAN DEFENCE COMMUNITY—  
APPROVAL OF PROTOCOL**

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs)** moved:

That it is expedient that the houses of parliament do approve the protocol to the North Atlantic treaty, signed at Paris on May 27, 1952, extending the guarantees of article 5 of the treaty to the European defence community, and that this house do approve the same.

He said: Mr. Speaker, as I reported to the house on May 27, representatives of the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization signed on that day in Paris a protocol which extended to the newly formed European defence community the guarantees under article 5 of the North Atlantic treaty. It is this protocol which is of immediate concern to us today and for which I am to ask the approval of parliament. I submit that possibly no more important subject will be discussed by the house during this session than the one which we are considering today. The protocol has already appeared as an appendix to *Hansard* and I am sure all hon. members are familiar with it. Article I of the protocol reads as follows:

An armed attack (i) on the territory of any of the members of the European defence community in Europe or in the area described in article 6 (i) of the North Atlantic treaty, or (ii) on the forces, vessels or aircraft of the European defence community when in the area described in article 6 (ii) of the said treaty, shall be considered an attack

[Mr. Bradley.]

against all the parties to the North Atlantic treaty, within the meaning of article 5 of the said treaty, and article 5 shall apply accordingly.

Article II of the protocol reads as follows:

The present protocol shall enter into force as soon as each of the parties has notified the government of the United States of America of its acceptance and the council of the European defence community has notified the North Atlantic council of the entry into force of the treaty setting up the European defence community . . .

At the beginning I should like to emphasize that whatever action is taken by the government in respect of ratification of this protocol, the protocol does not come into effect until it is ratified by all the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Therefore even if action were taken at an early date by the government of Canada the protocol itself would not be effective until it had been ratified by all the members and until the European defence community treaty was also in effect.

The reason that we are asking for consideration of this matter now at the end of this session is to make sure that, if the protocol commends itself to the house, we will not be in the position of holding up its coming into effect. I believe that if the protocol commends itself to parliament and if the government decides to ratify it, it might be desirable to postpone the deposit of our ratification for a time until we see how other governments, possibly even more immediately concerned than we are, act with regard to it.

It is true that the acceptance and the coming into effect of this protocol do extend the obligations which Canada has undertaken under the North Atlantic treaty to the Federal Republic of Germany. That of course is a very important development indeed. As hon. members know, the proposed European defence community includes only one member which is not already a signatory to the North Atlantic treaty, and that is the Federal Republic of Germany. But though the protocol does represent an extension of our obligations, I suggest that the extension is more theoretical than real because in the North Atlantic treaty there is an article, article 6, which provides that the guarantee of mutual assistance shall come into effect when an armed attack is made on the forces, the vessels or the aircraft of any of the parties when in or over these territories or any other area in Europe in which occupation forces of any of the parties were stationed on the date when the treaty came into effect.

That means that we are already under obligation to come to the assistance of the NATO forces stationed in Western Germany. If this protocol comes into effect it will extend that obligation from an attack on forces of occupation in Germany to an attack on