

REPORTED IN PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

STATEMENT BY MR. HARRIS: In the House of Commons on February 1 the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Drew, moved the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing, as recorded in Hansard, the following matter:

"A statement of the Parliamentary Assistant to the Prime Minister, (Mr. W.E. Harris) reported by the press as follows: 'War with Russia may be an outcome of the signing of the North Atlantic pact.'"

The Speaker decided that there was no urgency for the discussion, as the matter referred to was included in the Speech from the Throne, now under debate. From this decision Mr. Drew appealed and the Speaker's ruling was sustained by a vote of 133 to 55.

Mr. Harris subsequently made the following statement, as recorded in Hansard:

"Mr. Speaker, in view of the incorrect impression that might be created as to what I said at Brantford ten days ago, I should like to make it clear that far from suggesting that war might come, I stressed the fact that the signing of the Atlantic pact would be the most effective step that Canada could take to protect herself against aggressors and to ensure the peace of the world. I expressed the opinion that the signing might take place within the next three months. I said that I did not believe that we would have war, nor did I suggest that I had any knowledge about the matter other than what is generally known. I did say that the agreement of the nations which would be evidenced by the signing of the pact would place such a preponderant strength on the side of peace that it was highly unlikely that any aggressor, including Russia, would try to make war after the signing. I emphasized that the pact was essential for the peace of the world and for the protection of Canada, and that its signing might even mark the beginning of better relations with Russia."

ARREST OF SAM CARR: The following question and answer were recorded in the House of Commons on January 28 in connection with the arrest of Sam Carr in New York City:

Mr. A.L. Smith (Calgary West): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Will he bring the house up to date on the Sam Carr case? Are we to have deportation or extradition proceedings? What charges are awaiting in this matter?

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): My information is that we have not yet received official intimation that deportation proceedings will be taken. We have already said that in the absence of deportation proceedings we will take extradition proceedings. We expect, however, an official statement on deportation.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): Extradition on what charges?

Mr. Garson: On the Charges that are outstanding against Sam Carr under the warrants for his arrest which have been extant since the matter first came up, and which are, as I recall, first, conspiracy under the Official Secrets Act; second, the giving of false information to get a passport, and third, forging of an application for a passport.

IMMIGRATION STATEMENT: The following statement on immigration was made by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. MacKinnon, in the House of Commons, on February 3:

"Mr. Speaker, I should like to place on record the following information regarding immigration to Canada during the calendar year 1948.

"During 1948 a total of 125,414 immigrants entered Canada. This was the largest total of any year since 1929, and is almost exactly twice as many as came in during 1947 when the figure was 64,127.

"Of the 125,141 immigrants, 46,057 came from the British Isles and 7,381 from the United States. Immigrants from northern European races numbered 16,957, including 10,169 Dutch. Other races contributed 55,019 new Canadians, the largest individual groups being 13,799 Poles and 10,011 Ukrainians.

"Disposition of the immigrants by provinces is as follows:

Ontario.....	61,621
Quebec.....	24,687
British Columbia.....	11,918
Alberta.....	9,715
Manitoba.....	7,750
Saskatchewan.....	5,087
Nova Scotia.....	2,813
New Brunswick.....	1,476
Prince Edward Island ..	269
Yukon Territory.....	64
Northwest Territory ..	14

"The movement of immigrants to Canada during this year was facilitated by an arrangement made with the Cunard White Star Line which kept the 'Aquitania' on the North Atlantic run and provided over 12,000 priority berths for immigrants. This arrangement, but expanded to cover 15,400 priorities, has been continued for the year 1949. The Government also assisted in the conversion of a German prize vessel which is now known as the 'Beaverbrae' and is engaged in carrying close relatives of persons resident in Canada to this country from continental Europe. Finally, the Government has arranged with Trans-Canada Air Lines for 10,000 air passages to be made available to immigrants from the United Kingdom between the 1st of July, 1948, and the 31st of March, 1949.

"During the year immigration offices were opened or re-opened in Glasgow, Liverpool and Rome."

that the Senior Bishop of the Calvinist Church has been forced by persecution to flee from Hungary to Switzerland.

"The Canadian Government, therefore, wishes strongly to protest against a policy which, on the basis of information which we possess, appears designed to destroy religious freedom in Hungary, and calls attention to the article of the Peace Treaty with Hungary, to which Canada is a party, and which provides that:

"Hungary shall take all measures necessary to secure to all persons under Hungarian jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion and of public meeting."

The Canadian Ambassador delivered this protest to the Hungarian Minister who undertook to communicate it to his Government. That is how the matter now stands.

EMERGENCY AIR SEARCH: It was announced simultaneously on February 4 in Ottawa and Washington that, with a view to expediting the movement across the international boundary of aircraft and air-crew engaged in emergency air search and rescue operations, the Canadian and United States Governments had agreed in an exchange of notes to give special customs and immigration clearance to such planes and crews of either country when entering the other's territory. As a result of the new arrangements, it will no longer be necessary for the crews of planes involved in air search and rescue operations to make their own arrangements with the Customs and Immigration authorities of the country which they are entering. Instead, completion of these formalities, by telephone or telegraph, has now become the responsibility of the Rescue Coordination Centre in charge of the rescue operation.

In Canada the R.C.A.F. is responsible for coordinating air search and rescue operations, which have been so often in the news since the war as a result of the many spectacular rescues effected. One of the most highly publicized of these was the dramatic "Operation Canon", in the autumn of 1947, when the R.C.A.F., assisted by an Army paratroop team, evacuated Canon John Turner, wounded Church of England missionary, by air from his home in Northern Baffin Land.

Rescue operations are conducted from five R.C.A.F. Coordination Centres at Halifax, Trenton, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver. In most cases flights are handled by aircraft specially designated for such work; some 25 of these planes are based at different points across Canada, immediately available for rescue missions. In addition the R.C.A.F. maintains a detachment of specially trained "para-rescue

jumpers", ready to leap to the aid of those in distress in remote areas. There are also special marine craft available on the East and West Coasts for water rescues.

When the need arises, the combined facilities of the R.C.A.F., of the other two Services, and of other Government agencies can be called upon to assist in rescue operations. The R.C.A.F. maintains close co-operation with all Government departments and municipal agencies and, when the latter are unable to carry out the task with the facilities at their immediate disposal, the Air Search and Rescue organization is brought into play.

Normally, R.C.A.F. Air Search and Rescue planes are only employed in assisting distressed flyers. In exceptional cases, however, - particularly when it is a matter of life or death - "mercy flights" within Canadian territory are also handled. Some fifty operations of all kinds have been carried out during the past twelve months and in three cases the men responsible for effecting the rescues were awarded decorations.

SUDBURY HOSPITAL FIRST: The new Sudbury General Hospital, Sudbury, Ont., is the first hospital in Ontario to have its application approved for assistance under the federal Government's hospital building program, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, has announced. The federal grant will be more than \$168,000.

The grant to the Sudbury hospital was suggested by the Ontario Department of Health, and formal notice of the federal Government's approval has been sent to the provincial Health Minister, Hon. Russell T. Kelley. Under the terms of the National Health Plan the provinces match the federal grants for hospital construction.

BARBADOS CONFERENCE: The Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, on February 4, announced the personnel of a delegation to attend a conference in Georgetown, Barbados, on shipping requirements for the Canadian - West Indies trade. The delegation consists of: F.M. MacLennan, of Ottawa, Assistant Deputy Minister and Comptroller of the Department of Transport; Captain R.A. Clarke, of Montreal, Manager of the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships; and J.M. Gauthier, of Montreal, Freight Traffic Manager of Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships.

The Canadian delegation will be joined in Georgetown by T.G. Major, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and M.B. Palmer, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Kingston, Jamaica.

The conference will open in Bridgetown on February 7 and will be attended by officials of the colonies and the Commonwealth Colonial Office.