

(C.W.B. October 7, 1949)

MR. MARTIN ON UN: The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, spoke over the French network of the CBC on October 2 about the Fourth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, at which he is a delegate of Canada. After stating that because the United Nations is "a thing of compromise and not of extremes... we must avoid being too hopeful or too pessimistic about its prospects," Mr. Martin pointed out that during the First Session of the General Assembly in London in January, 1946, "there was still a lingering tendency to regard the United Nations as the one certain hope for lasting international peace...."

"Today, more than three years later, that initial false confidence no longer exists. In that relatively short space of time we have come to know exactly where we stand. This General Assembly, and the fifty-nine delegations which have come here to participate, are no longer travelling a path of unreality. Under the effective Presidency of General Romulo of the Philippines, this session has opened in an atmosphere of efficiency and realism, if not of the old rosy optimism. Formalities such as the opening debate, the adoption of the agenda, the choosing of officers and the launching of seven committees have been completed in an unusually short time."

Mr. Martin reviewed the work and agenda of the Political Committee, and went on to indicate that, although East-West differences persistently introduce a spirit of contention into Assembly deliberations, and although there is good reason to believe that the Russians and their friends welcome the opportunity to speak from an international platform for propaganda reasons, this is not the purpose for which the United Nations was founded.

"I think that if you were to ask most of the 59 delegations assembled here why they had come to New York....", he said, "they would give you an answer which would be the real key to the present value of the United Nations. They would point to the record, to the negotiations in progress which are designed to achieve settlements of existing disputes in Palestine, Kashmir and Indonesia. They would allude to the less spectacular but equally constructive efforts of the United Nations in the Economic and Social fields. But even more emphatically they would say, I feel sure, that their governments had sent them here, not only because of what the United Nations has been able to do in the past; but because the United Nations is gradually becoming accepted as a moral influence for good in the world.... Since I have been here I have been impressed with this conviction -- that though so many of our agenda items involve the threatening split between East and West, the important thing is that both East and West are here to discuss them.... We should feel grateful, I believe, that we have in the United Nations a world

parliament in which the parties to disputes are prepared to talk about, rather than fight about a solution."

Mr. Martin concluded by saying that "We still regard our membership in the United Nations as a cornerstone of our foreign policy."

NEWFOUNDLAND HEALTH SERVICES: Improved health services for the south coast of Newfoundland are in prospect with the approval of a grant of more than \$61,000 from federal health funds for the employment of two more doctors and the purchase of four boats to be used in bringing an improved health service to isolated communities, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, announced on October 3.

He noted that about 20,000 people are scattered along the south coast of the island between Rose Blanche and Belleoram and that the provision of adequate health facilities has always been difficult because of the few doctors and the lack of transportation. There are no roads, and the only means of communication is by boat or seaplane.

CANADA - US NAVAL EXERCISE: Commencing on October 11 and lasting about four weeks, units of the United States Atlantic Fleet and a landing force of United States Marines will hold a minor cold weather exercise on the Labrador coast, in the vicinity of Hamilton Inlet, it was announced jointly on September 30 by Naval Headquarters in Ottawa and the Navy Department in Washington.

A Canadian destroyer, H.M.C.S. "Haida" will participate in the exercise and Canadian Army officers will attend as observers. Participating U.S. Navy units will include a cruiser, escort carrier, submarine, transport and hospital ship, plus destroyers, minesweepers and various types of landing ships.

CRUDE PETROLEUM PRODUCTION: Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in June declined one per cent from May, but showed a sharp advance of 64 per cent as compared with June last year, the Bureau of Statistics stated on October 1. The decrease in the month was principally due to reduced output from Turner Valley and in the Northwest Territories. Production from Leduc and Redwater fields of Alberta rose sharply.

Output in June amounted to 1,701,500 barrels as compared with 1,717,900 in May and 1,038,500 a year ago. During the first six months of this year, 9,812,800 barrels were produced as against 5,125,500 in the similar period last year, a gain of 91 per cent.

In June, output of natural gas continued the downward trend shown since the beginning of the year, amounting to 3,624,900 M cubic feet compared with 3,328,000 in June, 1948.

AUGUST DOMESTIC EXPORTS: Canada's domestic exports in August were valued at \$251,700,000, a rise of more than 12 per cent above last year's August total of \$224,100,000, according to trade returns released by the Bureau of Statistics on October 1.

The August total was also higher than the July exports of \$241,300,000, and brought the aggregate for the year to \$1,917,600,000 as compared with \$1,875,100,000 for the first eight months of 1948.

Large exports of wheat, in comparison with last year, were again a feature of exports in August, although the value of this commodity in August was less than in several months earlier this year. Other changes in the month, in comparison with August last year, were substantial increases in the value of shipments to the United Kingdom and Latin America and a slight rise in exports to the United States. Exports to Continental Europe were close to the value of a year ago. In comparison with July the main changes were a recovery in shipments to the United States, and proportionately large increases in exports to Latin America and foreign countries other than Europe. Exports to the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries were lower than in July.

Partly offsetting the decline recorded in July, exports to the United States were valued at \$115,353,000 as compared with last year's August value of \$113,953,000; the total for the eight months rising to \$910,604,000 as against \$878,933,000 in 1948. Shipments to the United Kingdom gained more sharply, rising to \$62,882,000 as compared with \$52,519,000, and bringing the eight-month total slightly above last year's at \$469,041,000 as against \$468,228,000.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS: Registrations on motor vehicles in Canada in 1948 reached an all-time record total of 2,031,000, the Bureau of Statistics figures indicate, showing an increase of 195,000 or 10.6 per cent over the 1947 total of 1,836,000. Increases were common to all provinces and territories. The overall increase in the three years since the end of the war was 534,000 or 35 per cent.

Taking into account registrations of all types of vehicles, the number of motor vehicles in Canada averaged one per 6.34 persons in 1948 as against 6.85 in 1947, and 7.60 in 1946. Including only passenger cars, there was an average of one to 8.6 persons compared with 9.2 in 1947, and 10.0 in 1946.

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION: Wheat flour production in August -- first month of the new crop year -- was eight per cent higher than in the corresponding month last year, and was the highest monthly total since November, 1948, the Bureau of Statistics announced on October 3.

The month's output amounted to 1,750,000 barrels as compared with 1,611,000 in the cor-

responding month last year and a monthly average of 1,694,000 barrels for the 1948-49 crop year. Wheat flour exports in the month amounted to 896,000 barrels as compared with 943,000 in the same month last year.

WHEAT STOCKS AND MARKETINGS: The Bureau of Statistics reported on October 4 that stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on September 22 amounted to 149,296,200 bushels compared with 130,360,600 on September 15 and 149,254,700 on the corresponding date last year.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 25,418,000 bushels of wheat during the week ending September 22 as compared with 27,549,600 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 130,623,300 bushels against 134,571,600 in the like period of the preceding crop year.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending September 22 totalled 3,769,100 bushels compared with 2,720,100 in the corresponding week last year, and in the cumulative period, 26,636,300 bushels compared with 15,671,900.

"CRIME COMICS" CONDEMNED: In the House of Commons on October 4, Mr. E.D. Fulton, Progressive Conservative member for Kamloops, moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Criminal Code so that "Every one is guilty of an indictable offence... who... prints, publishes, sells or distributes any magazine, periodical or book which exclusively or substantially comprises matter depicting pictorially the commission of crimes, real or fictitious, thereby tending... to induce or influence youthful persons to violate the law or to corrupt the morals of such persons."

Mr. Fulton made it clear that what he had in mind was "not the ordinary comic strip in the paper, but what is commonly called the crime comic;... the kind of magazine, forty or fifty pages of which portray nothing but scenes illustrating the commission of crimes of violence with every kind of horror that the mind of man can conceive."

Opinions condemning the harmful effect of such publications on the minds of children, expressed by psychiatrists and by an official of the American Bar Association, were quoted by Mr. Fulton, who went on to say that "children are natural imitators, and that they frequently copy what they have seen others do (in pictures) without any thought of the moral aspect involved." Instances of juvenile crime apparently directly inspired by crime comics were cited by Mr. Fulton.

Mr. Daniel McIvor, Liberal member for Fort William, and Mr. E.G. Hamsell, Social Credit member for MacLeod, spoke in support of Mr. Fulton's motion.