

*External Affairs*

millions of dollars in the United States on publicity, at the same time getting good co-operation because they are spending good money for it, while at the same time we have external affairs, who need a little bit of publicity, a little bit of contact, a little bit of help here and there, having a struggle to get it.

I see no reason why when you give out with one hand you should not receive back with the other. It should be a two-way trade. I think that if we had a senior man down there who could co-ordinate these activities our press distribution in the United States would be a great deal better than it is at the present time. I could develop that subject further, but I will not do so tonight. It seems to me that in the news distribution at the United Nations, the government itself has to improve its services, step in and take the lead.

To this end I suggest that the government should appoint a top level information officer to the United Nations permanent delegation. There is a precedent for this procedure. May I remind you that a great Canadian newspaper editor was chosen to fill just such a role for NATO in Paris. One should be fair and one should agree at this time that the Canadian Press is a news gathering organization and that even if it did have a correspondent at the United Nations he would have no time for interpretive writing. His job is simply to go out and get the facts.

It seems to me that a government top level information officer—and he must be top level; otherwise the reporters will not bother too much with him; and he will not have the authority with which to speak or the knowledge with which to speak—could do some of the following things. First, he could give the story behind the story to the press. He could arrange interviews for the members of delegations and for visiting V.I.P.'s. He could prepare background material. He could release bulletins, pamphlets and brochures so that the newspaper editor gets the full story at a glance. Hence when something of interest to Canadians takes place at the United Nations, this information could be put out in a brochure which would be timely and useful and would attract attention. If we make an effort to help the free press of Canada, it can be relied on to do the rest.

It seems to me that the great problem is how to get across to the Canadian public the magnitude of their stake in the United Nations. A basic factor of any foreign policy, in order for it to be enduringly successful, is that it must be understood and accepted by the people.

[Mr. Macnaughton.]

Do Canadians know the full story at the United Nations? How could they, when nobody tells them? What is needed is full coverage of United Nations activities, particularly those activities which concern Canada. In wartime we had reporters and feature writers travelling all over the world, telling us what was going on at the fighting fronts. Surely today we can spare a few reporters at the United Nations in New York city for the purpose of telling us what is going on at the most important fighting front of all, namely the front where we are trying to prevent war.

In the United States in 1952 there was a sudden upsurge of interest in Canada. You read about it in magazines; you heard about it over the radio. In 1954 in Canada could we not have an upsurge of interest in foreign policy? We may be diffident about telling the rest of the world what we are doing but at least we could tell ourselves.

Make no mistake about it, the United Nations stands between us and international anarchy. The United Nations stands between us and the extinction of human freedom. Some of us have lived through two world wars; but if a third world war came some of us would get hurt and we might be back in the bow and arrow era. The United Nations is the place where millions of people, differing in a thousand ways, act through their various delegates to reach a common goal. That goal is survival. We want justice and security in international living. The United Nations provides us with our best chance of getting that.

It seems to me that Canadian foreign policy brings out this simple truth. We in Canada have created a foreign service to which our citizens can belong with honour. As a result, our external affairs are managed by well prepared, honest, astute and respected professional men and women who keep Canada's prestige at a high level throughout the world. I think it is time that the Canadian public were told what these men and women are doing from day to day and from week to week. I think specifically that it is time Canadians were told the story of our foreign service's important work at the United Nations.

**Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Speaker, the house has waited with keen interest for today's debate. That interest was largely attributable, I think, to the statement in relation to China that came, through the press, from the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) on his world tour. As to the statements made in the house this afternoon by the Secretary of State for External Affairs