

## COMMENTS ON GEN. EISENHOWER'S U.N. SPEECH

**MR. ST. LAURENT, MR. DREW:** The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. George A. Drew, both commented briefly, and in preliminary fashion only, in the House of Commons this week, on the address of the President of the United States at the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 8.

Mr. St. Laurent's remarks were made at the opening of the House of Commons on December 9. Mr. Drew's were delivered during discussion of a bill respecting the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources late in the afternoon of December 8.

Following are the texts of their remarks:

**MR. ST. LAURENT:** "Members of the House will have heard or read in the newspaper reports, Mr. Speaker, of the inspiring address delivered by the President of the United States at the General Assembly of the United Nations yesterday afternoon. I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Canadian Government, of welcoming President Eisenhower's imaginative and constructive approach to what is perhaps the greatest problem of the day, namely: the effective control of atomic energy and its development for the welfare rather than the destruction of mankind. The House, will, however, appreciate that it would be inappropriate to make any extended comments on the President's proposal without the most careful study of his actual text, which we have not yet received. I can assure the House that the President's statement will receive most careful and sympathetic consideration by the Canadian Government.

**MR. DREW:** "Less than half an hour ago the President of the United States of America completed one of the most significant speeches of our time. It is a speech which should offer greater encouragement than the people of this world have had for many years. The fact that it was so clearly a speech which represented the united opinions of the United States, Great Britain and France gives it a significance and meaning that should reach the heart of every person in this world, whether beyond the iron curtain or on this side of it, who looks toward that day of peace for which we have all been hoping.

"I mention this because that speech in many ways was directly related to the subject matter of the Bill now before us, which has to do with the possibilities of that immense area within which was first discovered on this North American continent the fissionable material from which such destructive forces have been built as part of the common defence of freedom throughout these past years.

"After having reviewed the terrifying increase in the power of atomic weapons which find their source in minerals which have been discovered in abundance in our own north country, the President placed before the United Nations and the world proposals for a peaceful

solution of this terrifying problem, which could mean not only the fulfilment of the hope of peace but could also mean an entirely new concept of the importance for us and for the whole world of that northern area, where there is not only an abundance of mineral resources of many kinds and a vast abundance of water power and other basic power, but also the fissionable materials from which undreamed of possibilities may emerge for those countries deficient in power, and because of that deficiency almost without hope of removing the poverty and distress which has been their lot for so long.

"After a positive, clear and definite proposal for the disarmament under international supervision and protection, the President of the United States, speaking obviously not only on behalf of that country but also of Great Britain and France, proposed that there be set aside a great international pool or stockpile of fissionable materials for the continuing supply of such atomic and hydrogen weapons as might be necessary for the common defence of freedom, and also for the purpose of peaceful experiment and research, as a result of which fortunate lands like Canada and the United States might find new opportunities and other lands now in poverty might be offered resources of electrical power and agricultural advancement through the scientific employment of these minerals for peaceful purposes.

"Surely a thought that will appeal to all mankind was the statement by the President this afternoon, made with unexcelled knowledge of the possibilities of its employment, that this most destructive of all forces, which today hangs as a cloud over the whole world, can become a boon greater than any that man has yet known. After proposing this international stockpile of normal uranium and fissionable material, he then challenged the imagination of his audience at the United Nations to contemplate what could be done if the scientists who are now devoting their energy to destruction used that accumulated knowledge in this new branch of science to explore the possibilities of the peaceful use of what he described as a bank of fissionable material for the production of electrical energy, which could be sent to the power-starved areas of the world, thus giving the nations which today see little sign of hope the possibilities of security, of happiness and of advancement which they could not foresee only a few years ago....

"If the offer extended so open-handedly today by the President of the United States at the United Nations, and so obviously with the support of Great Britain and France, is accepted in that spirit by the nations of the whole world - and I hope, as I believe we all hope, that it will be so accepted - then this northern area of Canada may become the centre of one of the greatest peaceful developments ever known to man."