

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I have never attended a meeting of the United Nations. I have been there, but not when it was in session. I therefore speak with no special authority, but I am inclined to agree with my friend Senator O'Leary, that it is time we examined the whole set-up of the United Nations. I say this not because I am at all a critic of the U.N. as it has existed. In all probability it has done the best it could. It succeeded an organization that failed, and it has at least lived for the last 25 years and exercised some influence, although not nearly so much as it should have exercised.

I remember that when we were debating this question in the other house more than 25 years ago, I criticized the set-up of the United Nations, in which there were two classes of members, one with very much more authority than the other. I remember Mr. King said to me privately that it was necessary to do that in order to achieve the organization at all and to start it working. Certain big countries are given the right of veto over the will of all the rest of the world. That is not democratic. That is autocratic. Those vetoes have been used very much to the destruction of the United Nations Organization, and have prevented it from carrying out the purpose for which it was created.

That is one of the first matters that might well be considered in any reorganization of the charter or the practice under the charter. It should be a democratic organization in which everyone has his say and his vote. The veto of the big powers over all the rest of the members should be abolished. I hope that the United Nations will be strengthened by the discussions that will take place in New York.

I have for a long time belonged to an organization whose aim is to bring about world government. It is an ideal. It is very impractical at the moment, but nobody knows how practical it may become in the years ahead. It is a good idea and I have supported it, knowing quite well that it would not come to fruition at least in my lifetime. I would like the United Nations to be strengthened in that direction so that it will have some authority as well as merely an influence over those who listen and no influence over those who do not listen.

I would like the United Nations to be given some actual authority and the money with which to enforce its sanctions. The organization will never be entirely satisfactory until it has a military force able to enforce its decrees for peace in the world. How its powers shall be used should be clearly defined in

the charter, but there should be some sanction behind its decisions. It should be strengthened, not weakened. It should be more democratic in its organization, and it should be supplied with more money than it has had in the past. Also, as everyone who has spoken so far has said, the members of the organization should be more loyal to it and more amenable to its decisions.

DOCUMENT TABLED

Hon. Paul Martin tabled:

Report of the Department of External Affairs for the year ended December 31, 1968, pursuant to section 6 of the Department of External Affairs Act, chapter 68, R.S.C., 1952.

QUEBEC SAVINGS BANKS ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

Hon. Paul Martin presented Bill S-2, to amend the Quebec Savings Banks Act.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday next.

Motion agreed to.

DOMINION COAL BOARD

DISSOLUTION BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Paul Martin presented Bill S-3, to provide for the dissolution of the Dominion Coal Board and for the repeal of the Canadian Coal Equality Act, the Coal Production Assistance Act and the Dominion Coal Board Act.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday next.

Motion agreed to.

YUKON PLACER MINING ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

Hon. Paul Martin presented Bill S-4, to amend the Yukon Placer Mining Act.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday next.

Motion agreed to.