

approaches to any department in that regard? If he has, what will be the government's attitude with respect to such application?

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The answer is no. There has been no application for a diplomatic passport, but it is customary to accord diplomatic immunities to officials of the united nations, and Mr. Grierson will be treated in that regard in the same way as other officials of the united nations.

#### CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT MOSCOW

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is there any change contemplated with respect to Canada's representation at Moscow? I ask the question because the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated that he was hoping for an appointment very soon either to China or to Russia, and I should think the latter is the only one which might conceivably be open.

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am not sure that the words "very soon" were in the statement made by the under secretary of state. I understood it to be the expression of a pious hope. I am afraid that the under secretary will have to resign himself to the position he now occupies for some considerable time; at least, that is my hope, if I am to remain in the office.

#### INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

##### DATE OF HALIFAX BY-ELECTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): I wish to direct a question to the acting leader of the government. It arises out of some anxiety in Halifax as to whether the government is in a position to indicate approximately on what date the Halifax by-election might take place.

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Although I do not like to use this form, I think I shall have to use it on this occasion and say that the intentions of the government in that regard will be made known in due course.

Mr. GRAYDON: Can the minister indicate whether the government has had a late meteorological report on the conditions of the weather in Halifax?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The answer is, no.

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#### RENT CONTROL

##### PRESS REPORT OF TEN PER CENT INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has his attention been drawn to a report in today's issue of the *Montreal Gazette* to the effect that a ten per cent increase in rent is to be announced on Thursday? Is that report true or false?

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): I have not seen the report.

Mr. KNOWLES: Is it true or false?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. ABBOTT: This is not a radio programme.

#### EMERGENCY POWERS

##### CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

The house resumed from Tuesday, April 1, consideration of the motion of Mr. Ilsley for the second reading of Bill No. 104, to provide for the continuation of certain orders and regulations of the governor in council for a limited period during the national emergency arising out of the war, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Fleming.

Mr. J. M. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Mr. Speaker, while this bill we are considering deals with certain controls set out therein, nevertheless I think it has been clear from the course of the debate that the whole principle of control and the attitude of members of this house toward the controlled economy is an important element, and at the outset I should like to make some rather general observations on that point.

I have the feeling that at the present time there are two views which, like the parallel lines we learned about at school, if produced ever so far both ways will not meet. My own feeling is that that should not be so, that these differences are not absolute. It is my hope to say some things which might enable those parallel lines to come a little closer together. Of course one hopes that when the parallel lines come closer, the line which inclines will be the other one and not one's own line. However, that is as may be.

Mr. KNOWLES: Is that what you were doing yesterday?

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Yesterday is past and we are down to serious things again. Yesterday was All Fools' day, and that includes everybody.