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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

NEWFOUNDLAND REFERENDUM: The Prime Minister, Mr. King, made a statement in the House of Commons Thursday on the impending Newfoundland referendum. He said in part:-

"We have been advised by the United Kingdom Government that a statement is to be issued today in Newfoundland announcing that the people of Newfoundland will be given the opportunity shortly to vote in a referendum on their future form of government. Three questions will be submitted to the people: continuation of Commission Government for a five-year period; restoration of responsible government as it existed in 1933 prior to the establishment of Commission Government; and confederation with Canada. If no form of government receives an absolute majority, a second vote will be held some time later on the two forms receiving the largest support.

"The decision to include confederation on the ballot having been taken by the United Kingdom Government, the outcome will be watched with deep interest by the people of Canada. The question as to their future form of government is, of course, one for the people of Newfoundland alone to decide. Neither the government nor the people of Canada would wish to influence in any way their decision. Should the people of Newfoundland express clearly their will that Newfoundland should enter confederation, I am sure that the people of Canada will welcome them as partners in a larger Canada. Should they decide otherwise, this decision, I am no less sure, will be received with understanding and respect by the people of Canada."

BAR COMMUNISTS: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, in the following exchange, announced in the House of Commons Thursday, the Government's decision to refuse entry into Canada of alien communists:-

Mr. A.L. Smith (Calgary West): I should like to repeat a question I have asked for the last two days, as to what has been done or what is the Government policy with respect to the exclusion of known communists at our ports of entry.

Mr. St. Laurent: Mr. Speaker, I did not prepare any special answer to the question, but I can say this much. The sections of the Act and the regulations have been under review by the members of the Government in the light of known conditions with respect to certain persons who could be described as known communists, who were believed to be coming to Canada for the purpose of exercising here activities which under the Taft-Hartley Act they can no longer exercise in the United States. The decision has been that the immigration officers are to be asked or directed to take the view that under the existing law and regulations such persons are not admissible to Canada.

The position is simply that we have no more authority at the present time because of this view taken by the Government than we had before, but that the present circumstances, known to us at this time, seem to make the law and the regulations applicable in such a way as to prevent the granting of entry to Canada to such persons.