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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

IN PARLIAMENT: After a week's debate, the House of Commons, by 119 to 80, adopted the Prime Minister's motion for a parliamentary inquiry into increases in the cost of living.

The special committee was organized the same day under chairmanship of the Minister of Health, Mr. Martin. As a first step, it is to inquire whether there has been hoarding of butter.

Before the committee yesterday, Kenneth Taylor, chairman, Wartime Prices Board, said the Board had some cases under investigation and was giving thought whether formal charges should be laid. He did not mention the commodities.

(A clause in the prices regulations provides that prices may not be charged "over what is reasonable and just").

The Emergency Exchange Bill (C.W.B. Jan. 30 and Feb. 6) is still in committee stage in the House of Commons. Yesterday, a C.C.F. amendment was moved to make the Bill's import prohibitions, now standing against all countries, applicable only "to any country requiring gold or currency of the United States in payment or settlement of the purchase prices".

Finance Minister Abbott, declining to accept the amendment, said it struck right at the fundamental principle of the Bill, converting it from a Bill which is non-discriminatory to a Bill aimed directly at the United States. The United States had been very good neighbours

and in difficult times during the war, when we were very short of essential supplies, there was never any restriction placed on their exports to Canada..... When hon. members stop to reflect for a moment on some of the essential raw materials we have to obtain from the United States, such as oil, steel and so on, I think they will agree it is important the United States should continue to treat us in that way, Mr. Abbott added.

The amendment was still under consideration at adjournment.

A Progressive-Conservative amendment to strike the word "emergency" from the short title of the Bill was defeated.

AT THE UNITED NATIONS: A compromise suggestion by General McNaughton (Canada), chairman of the Security Council, has relieved the tension over India and Pakistan. Under the arrangement, the special Indian delegate will be able to fly back to New Delhi for new instructions. Although no deadline is fixed, he is asked to return as quickly as possible. In the meantime, the Council keeps the case on its calendar. (P: 10-11).

ALLEGED BREAD COMBINE: An inquiry is to be held under the Combines Investigation Act into an alleged combine of bread-making firms in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. H. Carl Goldenberg, Montreal lawyer, has been named investigating commissioner.