

*External Affairs*

you multiply these few examples, along with those dealt with by the six committees and covering the whole range of the other subjects I have already mentioned, then it is perfectly obvious we are neglecting a very great deal of valuable information. Yet only one Canadian newspaper carried the slightest reference to any of these topics. Mr. Walter O'Hearn of the *Montreal Star* highlighted some of the implications of these topics, but for the rest, silence. Every day something like that is happening at the United Nations, something which concerns Canada directly. Why do we not hear about them?

I would be unfair on this point if I did not admit that the government itself must accept part of the blame for this shameful condition. The office of the consul general in New York city does lend its press attaché or information officer to the permanent Canadian delegation at times when the United Nations is sitting, but that poor information officer with two jobs, one at the consulate and one at the United Nations, is swamped with work and so the stuff gets out in little quantities and certainly too late.

Is it possible to improve conditions? I say it is. I say that in the first place the Canadian press should have a permanent full-time United Nations correspondent in New York city and he should be a Canadian. I say that the wealthy Canadian newspapers should also have correspondents at the United Nations. The system today is such that the news we get in our newspapers, at least it seems so to me, is largely a rehash of American news prepared for the American or British public and then sub-edited for the Canadian public with a new title and the first two paragraphs re-written. That may be an exaggeration but it certainly dramatizes the point.

It seems to me we know much more about what Mr. Cabot Lodge and Mr. Dulles say than what Mr. Pearson says, and I do not believe that is right. Let me give some evidence of that. In a dispatch from the *New York Times* service datelined United Nations, New York, February 17, 1954, and headed: "News Sources Are Criticized by UNESCO", the article states:

UNESCO raised these prospects in a 232-page report, entitled "News Agencies: Their Structure and Operation," made public today here (New York) and in Paris. In it UNESCO maintained that the six "world" news agencies are not truly international since their financial support, their directors and most of their staff members are drawn from four countries: from the United States, in the case of the Associated Press, United Press, or International News Service; or from Britain, France or the Soviet union in the case of Reuters, Agence France-press, and Tass.

Referring to the personnel of such agencies UNESCO said "however impartial they may be,

however strictly they may comply with the professional code of ethics, they will inevitably judge and present news from the viewpoint of the country of which they are citizens."

Moreover, it declared, the current trend by news agencies toward a "free-for-all struggle" for the sale of news runs counter to the trend toward increased international co-operation in political, military, economic, educational, scientific and cultural matters."

Also, while in New York, I had a little memorandum prepared for my own use, because in dealing with the press one tries to be fair and to be accurate. That being the case I believe if I put this on the record it may help hon. members to understand the situation. This memorandum states:

On the press side, I have been informed that no full-time Canadian correspondent is at present assigned to the United Nations. Canadian Press, until fairly recently, had as a member of its New York staff a young man who specialized in coverage of the United Nations and devoted most of his time to it when the assembly was in session. Recently, however, the news agency has not assigned a member of its New York staff to the United Nations on a regular basis. British United Press, the other agency serving Canadian newspapers, is not represented at the United Nations by one of its own correspondents. Canadian Press coverage is based on reports of the Associated Press, and British United Press reports are drawn from the service of the United Press. Until fairly recently, the *Montreal Star* maintained a correspondent in New York to specialize in coverage of the United Nations. He was recently transferred to Montreal and was not replaced. Other Canadian newspapers periodically assign writers to the United Nations on a temporary basis but none is represented by a full-time correspondent. Some use the special services of the United States and British newspapers for the purpose. No Canadian periodical maintains a full-time correspondent at the United Nations.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that Canadians are entitled to know from the great news agencies, co-operative or selling, what goes on at the United Nations. These reports should be written by Canadians for Canadians, reporting United Nations activities and decisions affecting Canada.

But if the newspapers have a duty, so has the government a duty to provide the facilities, the information and the help to the free press of Canada. I say that the information section of our Canadian consulate in New York city—and I mention New York city because it is the centre of the press, of periodicals, of communications; it is the largest centre for that sort of thing in the United States—should be reorganized in such a way that it could co-ordinate the news distribution of the Department of External Affairs in New York and in the United States, of the Department of Trade and Commerce, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the national film board, the travel bureau and in fact all the other government agencies. It seems to me to be incongruous that here we have a travel bureau spending