

Business of the House

Perhaps we might get another group formed, before the security council is extended, which would be granted half a seat, or rather a seat on a one year term. After all, Canada and New Zealand territorially control a large amount of the resources of this planet, and I think the Secretary of State for External Affairs would have a pretty good case to sell in this regard.

I see my time is almost up, but in conclusion I would like to refer to a remark made by the minister. If I heard him correctly, he said there was no disposition in the United Nations at the present time to set up machinery for peacekeeping forces.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What I said was that there were not enough members in the United Nations who would subscribe at the present time to the proposition that there should be established a United Nations police force.

Mr. Nesbitt: Perhaps that was a misunderstanding of mine. As I now understand him, he was not referring to some peacekeeping machinery, but to a peace force.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No, a police force.

Mr. Nesbitt: Oh, a police force—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Which Canada would of course support.

Mr. Nesbitt: As I understand it, the difference being between some sort of peacekeeping machinery, where lists of forces would be filed, and some sort of permanent police force, which is quite another thing. That clarifies it, so with that I conclude my remarks.

Mr. Haidasz: I do not wish to hold up the estimates of the Department of External Affairs, but in view of the fact that this week end in Toronto a national convention coinciding with the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Canadian association of Polish expolitical prisoners will take place, I have been asked by representatives of that organization to raise my voice in this chamber and express my sympathy for their cause.

As hon. members know, there is draft legislation pending before the West German parliament providing compensation for victims of nazi persecution. This new draft of the German indemnification laws will be subject to scrutiny by both the upper and lower houses, and may therefore undergo changes before final adoption. I hope the appropriate officials of the Department of External Affairs, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, will examine this draft legislation in order to determine whether and to what extent Canadian interests may be affected, and in what

way they can protect the interests of Canadian citizens, now resident in Canada, who were victims of nazi persecution.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I most certainly will examine it, and I may say I have been doing so.

Mr. Herridge: I see there are just a couple of minutes left and I had not intended to speak this evening. A number of us hope to have the opportunity to speak later, but I do want to support the remarks of the previous speaker with respect to the question of the victims of nazi persecution who are now Canadian citizens. I have had a number of them visit me in my office, and I have received documents from Bonn which clearly indicate that their just claims have not by any means been satisfied to date.

I raised the question in the house a week or so ago, and the Prime Minister was good enough to prepare a statement on the matter. In fact we understand that the government is keeping an eye on this situation, but I do urge that every effort be made to see these persons receive the fullest compensation. There are quite a number of them who have been entirely overlooked, whose claims under present law are not considered valid, and if the Canadian government does not take a fairly strong stand many of us in this group, and other members in the house, are afraid justice will not be done.

Time is running out, and I understand they are going to change the law in Germany. There is some question of amending it in a manner that will have some effect on the claims of the persons we are concerned with. I suggest this is an appropriate time for the Canadian government to use its influence with the government in West Germany, to make strong representations on behalf of these Canadian citizens so that the law, as amended, will include them and their valid and, in some cases, quite substantial claims.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. It being 10.30 p.m., shall I rise, report progress and request leave to sit again at the next sitting of the house?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Churchill: I wonder if the acting house leader would confirm the arrangements for tomorrow and let us know what might happen on Monday?

Mr. Cardin: Tomorrow it is proposed the house will take up interim supply, and when that is finished it is proposed to go on with the estimates of the Department of Mines