

Mr. HOWE: I believe if it could be established that a regular route was being made across Portugal, and that munitions carried in Canadian ships were transhipped through Portugal to Spain, there would be reason to forbid the use of those territorial waters.

Mr. MacINNIS: There is not a state of armed conflict in Italy to-day, but it has been proved and is a well known fact that with the consent of the Italian government Italian armed forces are taking part in the struggle in Spain.

Mr. MARTIN: The same is true of Russia.

Mr. MacINNIS: I am not concerned with that at the present time; but if the hon. member wishes to raise the point he may do so, and it can be settled later. Could this legislation or the legislation passed during last session be applied to Italy?

Mr. ILSLEY: I have not the amendment made during the last session before me, and before making an answer I should like to have it. Looking at the legislation now in hand I should think that if there is not a state of armed conflict or war existing in Italy the present measure would not apply.

Mr. STIRLING: Then, what about Portugal?

Mr. MacINNIS: And there is no state of armed conflict in Japan. Under those circumstances it could not apply to Japan.

Mr. ILSLEY: I would not think that that would be the case. Japan is sending armed troops into another country and I would think that this legislation would properly apply to her.

Mr. MacINNIS: Italy is doing the same thing.

Mr. ILSLEY: If Italy is doing the same thing, that would be a question of fact to be determined. The hon. member for Yale made reference to Portugal. Reference has been made to the Customs Act. If the Department of National Revenue in the administration of that act has any reason to believe that there is an indirect routing of goods to Spain through Portugal, there are ample powers in the act to refuse a permit for the shipment of such goods.

Mr. BENNETT: That would be under the Customs Act, not this act.

Mr. ILSLEY: Not because Portugal is at war, but because Spain is at war and a shipment to Portugal might be considered as in effect a shipment to Spain.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I realize that during a discussion on a bill of [Mr. Stirling.]

this kind is not the proper time to press the government for a declaration of foreign policy. At the same time I feel it is not proper to place legislation of this kind upon the statute books without the fullest discussion. Undoubtedly the government ought, in an emergency, to have the power of effectively controlling the actions of its nationals in shipping goods whether under the Customs Act or under the proposed legislation. But at the present time, there is no emergency although of course there might be in the indefinite future. Perhaps we ought to give emergency powers of this kind looking to some indefinite future; but consider the existing situation. A war has been going on in China for some months; we are met here at the beginning of the session and apparently the government is not proposing to do anything with regard to that particular situation. I take it that that was the meaning of the declaration by the Prime Minister.

In spite of that, the government is now asking us to give it powers which will enable it, by order in council, in effect to determine the foreign policy of Canada. I do not think that is democratic. I have no objection to this legislation in itself, as it may be used in an emergency, but I say that when an international situation exists such as does exist to-day the government ought not first to refuse to give any information as to its foreign policy and then in this indirect manner ask parliament for powers which would permit it to commit the country in a roundabout way to a line of action which might involve war.

I am not accusing the government of wanting to go to war; I am accusing them of failing to live up to the solemn obligations which Canada has made; I am accusing them of taking to themselves by means of legislation of this kind the power to control our foreign policy without consulting parliament. This is not just the occasion when I would have chosen to bring this matter before parliament, but I feel that the government should take us a little more into their confidence and explain just what their policy is likely to be under the provisions of this legislation.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): What are the solemn obligations to which my hon. friend refers?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The Kellogg pact and our membership in the League of Nations, both very solemn obligations.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Will my hon. friend name one nation in the world