

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 30, 1954

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

SUGAR

TABLING OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am tabling three copies, in English and in French, of the text of the international sugar agreement. Possibly I might make a short statement on this agreement.

Hon. members may be aware that Canada was represented at the United Nations conference on sugar which was held in London last year from July 13 to August 25 inclusive, and from which emerged an international agreement for the regulation of the production and marketing of sugar. Under the provisions of the international sugar agreement, governments which were represented at the conference may accede to the agreement by depositing an "instrument of accession" with the United Kingdom government. Sufficient governments, including the governments of the United Kingdom and of the United States, have now deposited their instruments of ratification or notified their intention to do so to bring the agreement into force from January 1, 1954. The agreement is to remain in force for five years.

My purpose in rising at this time is merely to inform the house of the intention of the government to participate in the international sugar agreement, copies of which I have now tabled. The government does not propose, however, to accede formally to the agreement until hon. members have had an opportunity to study its provisions and to offer any comments or submit any questions with respect to its provisions. This opportunity to discuss the sugar agreement will be afforded when the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce are before the house.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REFERENCE TO SPEECH OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the report from London that the foreign office had been informed in

advance of the content of Mr. Dulles' speech, will he inform us whether similar information was communicated to the Canadian government with regard to the content of that speech?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker; we were not given an advance copy of the speech nor were we consulted about it. As a matter of fact, I do not think it should be expected that Mr. Dulles would consult us or give us an advance copy of his speech every time he makes one. However, Mr. Speaker, I think we would certainly expect to be consulted before the United States adopted any policy or accepted any obligations or commitments in the carrying out of which Canadian co-operation or participation would be expected or which would directly affect this country. I have had the advantage of reading the text of Mr. Dulles' speech, and I do not think those circumstances would apply to this particular speech.

[Later.]

Mr. Jean-François Pouliot (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, in order to make things even, following the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson), may I ask this question? Does the Secretary of State for External Affairs send advance copies of his speeches to Mr. Dulles in his capacity of Secretary of State of the United States?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker. That has not been my custom.

Mr. Pouliot: Thank you.

ATOMIC ENERGY

HYDROGEN BOMB TESTS—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the Canadian government any information as to whether last Friday's hydrogen bomb explosion got out of control in the way that the one did on March 1? Can the minister say whether the Canadian government knows whether any further such tests are in prospect?