

*External Affairs*

the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the C.C.F. group and the leader of the Social Credit group would be members of it. Then I think the women should be represented. We have three women on this side of the house. I think they should select one of their number and I feel that the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mrs. Shipley) should be on it. Then we are fortunate in having in the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Croll) someone who was born in Russia. Although he has not had a chance to speak the language for some time, I am sure that he could, without too much trouble, act as interpreter for the group. I make this suggestion in all seriousness.

I think it is a great pity that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) has been the only member of the Canadian parliament who has made an effort, as far as I know, to visit the U.S.S.R. since the war ended; and no one has ever suggested he was a communist because he had gone there or that his visit had converted him to communism. But I think the visit that was paid by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre at least made a start in trying to convey to the people of the U.S.S.R. that all Canadians do not share the hatred that is expressed by some of our people who are most vocal.

I have over 2,000 people of Russian origin living in my constituency and I have no reason to think that their cousins, uncles or aunts who are behind the iron curtain are beasts or people who would not be reasonable. I am not suggesting that this delegation go there with the expectation that they would not return. I am sure they are all courageous people who would be prepared to take the risk, but I do not feel that there would be any risk at all. I think that Senator McCarthy would not be in a strong position in complaining about a group of Canadian members joining the communist party. I think that a visit such as the one I have proposed would at least indicate that Canada would like to find out a little bit more about Russia and would like to find out whether we could find a basis for agreement. I would not imagine that the Leader of the Opposition or the leader of the Social Credit party would make the sort of speeches that they made here, but if they felt like making them in Moscow I feel sure that they would find an interesting hearing. As I said, I throw out this suggestion for what it is worth. I hope that the committee that is going to consider these estimates will give consideration to it and that some time action will be taken.

I want to say a few words about the work of the United Nations, especially the specialized agencies. The hon. member for Mount Royal (Mr. Macnaughton) made an interesting speech the other night. I am sorry that there were not more in the house at the time to listen to it. He made in quite a friendly tone some remarks to which I think the minister and the department should pay some attention. He complained about the fact that we are giving very poor publicity in Canada to the work that is being done by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. He mentioned the fact that the C.B.C. has not a full-time person at the United Nations and that the Canadian press is not represented. None of the wealthy papers, or none of the syndicates in Canada are represented. I think we should not put the blame on the newspapers. I think it is a pity, though, that the work that is being done at the United Nations is not being relayed back to Canada as actively as it is being carried on.

I am happy to say that in Canada up to the moment there is not any active opposition to the United Nations. South of the border I found quite a number of publications at United Nations headquarters to answer the anti-United Nations propaganda there. Here is one that I brought back. It is entitled "The United Nations—Facts and Fallacies". It outlines some of the fallacies and gives the answers. Among the fallacies mentioned are:

- The U.N. threatens to destroy U.S. sovereignty . . .
- The U.N. charter threatens the destruction of our constitution . . .
- The U.N. is a nest of communist spies . . .
- The U.N. is controlled by Soviet Russia and communists . . .
- The U.N. dragged the U.S. into the Korean struggle . . .
- The U.N. can send American boys to fight anywhere any time . . .

Then there is this one:

The U.N. does not name God in its charter, does not open its meetings with prayer, and is therefore atheistic.

Again:

The U.N. costs too much. It is a heavy burden for the U.S. taxpayer to bear.

And so on.

I am very happy as I said that we have no organizations in Canada that are active in trying to get the Canadian government to reduce the very small expenditures that have been made for the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, but I would remind the minister that the hon. member for Mount Royal pointed out that we are only paying 10 cents per person per