

bring the war to a speedy end. Some came from lands newly liberated from the enemy. All were deeply conscious of the appalling human sufferings which war causes. I think in the end it was this profound realization which made agreement possible.

At a great international conference of this kind there are so many national interests to be reconciled, so many adjustments which have to be made for the varying views of the different states represented that what emerges in the end is bound to be a compromise. The charter in its final form bears evidence of these compromises and adjustments. I do not think anyone would contend that it is an ideal document, and in the course of my remarks I shall mention some things which the Canadian government hopes in the course of time to see changed. But each chapter, each sentence and in some cases each comma, in this charter have been discussed and considered in the conference committees. Each clause has received the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the states represented. The charter which resulted from these deliberations does represent a great cooperative achievement. Each nation has made its individual contribution; and I think it can be said that Canada had no small contribution to make.

Before the conference took place at San Francisco the parliament of Canada had approved the principle of Canada's participation in an international organization to maintain peace and security. The words of the resolution introduced in the house on March 20, 1945, were as follows:

That this house recognizes that the establishment of an effective international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security is of vital importance to Canada, and, indeed, to the future well-being of mankind, and that it is in the interests of Canada that Canada should become a member of such an organization.

It was the task of the Canadian delegation at the conference both to safeguard the interests of Canada and to incorporate in the final charter, so far as this was possible, those improvements which could best secure the loyal and continuing support of this country for the united nations organization. The government considered it essential that the Canadian delegation to the conference should be broadly representative in character. Accordingly it was decided that it should include representatives of both houses of parliament and from both sides of the house. The delegation so composed worked together at San Francisco in an atmosphere of complete mutual confidence, and though I was there I venture to say here that I do not think any group could have been chosen from among the 11,500,000 people of Canada who would have

striven more effectively to act only as Canadians and in no way as partisans or members of any one political party, though for most of the time we were there a federal election campaign was in progress here at home.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

INCOME WAR TAX ACT

COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre) moved the second reading of bill No. 5, to amend the Income War Tax Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, some of the matters to which I shall refer in support of the second reading of the bill are of somewhat recent date, for that reason I should like to remind the house that I first placed the bill on the order paper at the regular session of 1943, but, in view of the restrictions against dealing with private members' bills during the war sessions, it was not possible for the matter to be discussed until now.

The effect of the bill now before the house is to add one sentence to subsection 1 of section 81 of the Income War Tax Act. The subsection to which I have referred, as it now stands, reads as follows:

No person employed in the service of His Majesty shall communicate or allow to be communicated to any person not legally entitled thereto any information obtained under the provisions of this act, or allow any such person to inspect or have access to any written statement furnished under the provisions of this act.

This section is fairly well known to hon. members as the secrecy provision of the Income War Tax Act. It also covers the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940, since sections 40 to 87 of the Income War Tax Act are, by section 14 of the Excess Profits Tax Act, made to apply thereto.

The sentence which I suggest should be added at the end of subsection 1 is as follows:

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall operate to prevent a minister of the crown from communicating to the Senate or to the House of Commons any information obtained under the provisions of this act.

The effect of this amendment would not, I hasten to point out, result in the immediate wholesale publication of all information obtained by the Department of National Revenue under the two acts to which I have referred. It would, however, remove the prohibition now