

Dominion-Provincial Relations

The government can be assured, I think, that both the house and, as far as I can assess the situation, the country are a unit in support of the government's demand for the proper treatment of Canada in this regard.

Mr. SOLON E. LOW (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure the government that we commend them for the position they have taken in this matter and that we will support them in that position, expressing at the same time the hope that good judgment will prevail in the council of foreign ministers, and that they will realize that good will and international good feeling cannot be promoted by denying a country like Canada the right to participate in the making of peace in a way comparable with the contribution and effort she made toward the winning of the war. We wish to compliment the minister on what he has done thus far, and to assure him that we stand ready to support him with the country as a whole, as the leader of the C.C.F. party has said, in a strong position in this matter.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS AND MOTION FOR PRINTING

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): If the Prime Minister proposes to move the adjournment now I would crave the indulgence of the house to ask for certain other information. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, with the advice and cooperation of the Prime Minister, has given us certain information with respect to an important question of external affairs referred to in the address delivered to us this afternoon by His Excellency the Governor General. Many important subjects were referred to in that address; but one in particular, that of dominion-provincial relations, I am sure will be the subject of discussion during the coming week. I should like to ask the Prime Minister if at the earliest opportunity he will table all related documents and correspondence that the house has not already had, with respect to this important matter.

If I may be permitted to ask the question specifically I shall put it in these terms: will the Prime Minister lay on the table of the house at the earliest possible day a copy of all letters, telegrams, submissions, presentations, briefs or other documents, passing between the Prime Minister or any official of his staff, the Minister of Finance or any official of his department or any other minister

[Mr. Coldwell]

or official of the government, and any premier, minister or official of any provincial government, relating to the conclusion of any fiscal agreement between the dominion and any of the provinces.

I am sure the Prime Minister will welcome this request and provide the information as soon as possible. I would urge that he let us have these documents at the very earliest day, because we are going to debate this and other questions for a week, and then for two weeks we are to give way to government business. I hope the Prime Minister will look with favour upon my request.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I had fully expected my hon. friend to ask for the correspondence and other documents to which he has just referred, and I have sought to anticipate his wishes by having the documents ready to table immediately. I was going to table them tomorrow, but I should like to oblige my hon. friend further by tabling them at the moment. This correspondence, I am informed, contains all matters of substance referring to the tax agreements, and dealt with by correspondence with the provinces since the budget of 1946. I know there are some messages, for example, to the premiers of certain provinces stating that they will find enclosed a copy or copies of a document or documents sent to other premiers. I do not know that these less important communications have been included, but I shall have them all gone over again to see that anything the house by any chance might wish to have is included, if it is not already here.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask to be allowed to table provincial-dominion relations correspondence since the budget of 1946, which I believe contains all correspondence of substance with respect to tax agreement negotiations with the provinces. It might further the wishes of hon. members if a motion were made to have this correspondence printed so that it would be available to the house in more convenient form. If the house is agreeable I would now move:

That 1,500 copies in English and 500 copies in French be ordered for the house and printed at the expense of the house.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. GRAYDON: If you find something of substance afterward will it go in too?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It will depend on its size. I shall seek to bring forward everything of an official character.