

have the effect of preventing ships from being placed under Canadian register to engage in the type of trade we are trying to prevent.

Mr. GREEN: Is the power under the section wide enough to prevent a shipment of munitions to Japan? I notice that subsection 2 (a) reads:

(a) Designate any territory or territories in which there is a state of war or armed conflict—

And so on. That would not apply to shipments to Japan, because there is not a state of war in that country.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): But there is armed conflict.

Mr. GREEN: The belief of the government is that this section is wide enough to enable them to prevent shipments to Japan, under present circumstances?

Mr. HOWE: I can say generally, that if the government passes an order in council stating that there is armed conflict in a certain area, this measure would apply immediately.

Mr. GREEN: And the minister would consider that there is sufficient power under the section to permit designating Japan as a territory to which shipments should not be made?

Mr. HOWE: Yes, undoubtedly.

Mr. MacNICOL: Does the word "munitions" include machinery for the manufacture of munitions?

Mr. HOWE: Yes. Subsection 3 contains these words:

. . . or any articles deemed capable of being converted thereinto or made useful in the production thereof—

This undoubtedly covers machinery.

Mr. MacNICOL: Prohibition of the shipment of munitions would also mean prohibition of the shipment of lathes for the manufacture of shells, equipment for weighing powder and equipment for placing the powder in cartridges?

Mr. HOWE: Yes, I would say so, under the words I have quoted. If the government decided that any article was being used in the production of munitions of war, shipments could be prohibited.

Mr. HEAPS: It seems to me that this measure is more or less a gesture on the part of the government to show what it may do under given circumstances. No doubt it vests in the government great responsibilities. If it so wished the government could, perhaps without the consent of parliament, say that

a certain area is in a state of armed conflict and, if it wished, could go to the support of one side and refuse to go to the support of the other. For instance, if the government desired, with respect to the present Sino-Japanese conflict it could either adopt a state of complete neutrality or support one side or the other.

As has been pointed out by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, the government has given no inkling or indication to the committee as to its stand on that very important question. In Canada to-day there is an overwhelming sentiment against the action of Japan in China. I believe if the government, under the power granted by the present measure, would declare that Japan is an aggressor nation, and take the bold step of refusing to supply her with the necessaries of war—always assuming that, as has been said, large quantities are being sent to that country—I believe a great body of public opinion would support the government's action. I know it must face difficulties presented by those people who are engaged in a profitable trade between Canada and Japan. I believe, however, that sentiment in Canada is so overwhelmingly against the attitude of Japan as an aggressor nation, and against the tactics that country has employed against a peaceful people, that the government would do well to take the bold step of prohibiting shipments of goods from Canada to Japan.

Mr. FINN: Would the minister give the name of the ships running to the West Indies? I believe he mentioned two ships in the West Indies trade, and two on the Pacific coast.

Mr. HOWE: I believe the hon. member must have misunderstood me. There are about ten running to the West Indies, including the Canadian National fleet of Canadian register.

Mr. STIRLING: Under subsection 2 (a) would it be possible to designate Portugal as a territory in which there is a state of war or armed conflict, civil or otherwise?

Mr. HOWE: Does the hon. member ask if we could now designate Portugal in that manner?

Mr. STIRLING: Yes.

Mr. HOWE: Is there a state of armed conflict in Portugal?

Mr. STIRLING: No, but it is a territory adjacent to one in which there is armed conflict and from which, for all I know, it might be possible to pass munitions on to either of the parties which are fighting.