

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, February 1, 1951

The house met at three o'clock.

DIPLOMATIC INSTRUMENTS

CANADA TREATY SERIES—AGREEMENTS,
EXCHANGE OF NOTES, ETC.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table twenty-seven documents, which are agreements, exchanges of notes and other diplomatic instruments published in the Canada treaty series. Perhaps the list might appear in *Votes and Proceedings*, unless hon. members wish me to read it now. It is rather long.

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

PROPOSED OBSERVANCE OF DOMINION DAY AND
VICTORIA DAY ON MONDAYS FOLLOWING
JUNE 30 AND MAY 23

Mr. J. L. MacDougall (Vancouver-Burrard) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 2, to amend the Dominion Day Act and the Victoria Day Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. MacDougall: Very little explanation is required on the introduction of this bill. No money is involved, naturally; otherwise I should not be able to introduce it. That, however, is not the main feature. The principal aim of the bill is that the ordinary man, with his wife and family, may have a better opportunity to celebrate statutory holidays by having those statutory holidays observed at the beginning of the week, wherever possible, rather than in the middle of the week, if and when they occur on such days. It is very easy for a man of affluence to take his holidays, either in Canada or abroad, at any time of the year that may suit him, but for the people generally, whom we all represent here, in my opinion it would be a distinct advantage to have this bill go through.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CRIMINAL CODE

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES—DISSEMINATION OF
SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA

Mr. Wilfrid LaCroix (Quebec-Montmorency) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3, to amend the Criminal Code (subversive activities).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. LaCroix: The purpose of this bill is to make it a criminal offence for any person to participate in subversive activities with a view to establishing in Canada a totalitarian dictatorship contrary to our democratic way of life.

Following numerous demands from other members and myself, according to the speech from the throne the government has decided to present a bill with an objective which may be similar. If that is done, of course, I much prefer that the government itself go through with it, in which event I might later withdraw my bill. Certainly I would favour deporting to Russia all the communists we have in Canada, in order to give them the opportunity of seeing for themselves what is going on over there.

Mr. Speaker: May I take this opportunity to point out that when an hon. member introducing a bill is asked to explain it, he should merely explain the provisions of the bill. He should not discuss the merits of the bill nor advance reasons why it should be supported.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

VISITORS IN GALLERY—PRINCIPAL, TEACHERS AND
STUDENTS OF ST. CATHARINES COLLEGIATE
INSTITUTE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. P. Cavers (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, hon. members of this house no doubt will be interested to learn that Principal Gordon E. Price, of the St. Catharines collegiate institute and vocational schools, five members of his teaching staff and one hundred students of that institution are in the galleries of this chamber today.

Under the auspices of Mr. Price, for the past few months a series of non-partisan addresses on various public matters have been delivered to the students of this school. On October 26 last the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) spoke to those students. Last month the leader of the C.C.F. group (Mr. Coldwell) addressed the student body, and I am informed that the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) will speak there this month.

Today, in order to further their interest in citizenship, these students are attending in the galleries of this chamber. The visit