

North Atlantic Treaty

Canadians as well as to the other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is the three big ones who want to control the whole organization. If we have no peace it is because of the setting up of the United Nations by the big ones, by Stettinius, a banker, who thought that the world could be organized like the management of a bank. I will not comment on that; I will just refer to it. The dispatch reads:

London, Associated Press.

It is announced that the three great powers have presently plans to form a super international government, the mission of which would be to direct the affairs of the North Atlantic treaty organization. We foresee that Prime Minister Churchill will discuss with President Truman early in January certain suggestions to enlarge the purpose of that organism, composed of twelve nations. Some of the modifications studied in the United States are to the effect that France and Great Britain would transform the council of acting ministers of foreign affairs into a permanent council of ministers, whose task would be to study fully the economic, military and production problems amongst the allied nations.

We are told also that all the agencies of NATO, actually dispersed in the three capitals, would be put under one roof in Paris, close to the general headquarters of General Eisenhower. We would also name a secretary-general whose powers, prestige and role would be equal to that of Eisenhower. The extra governmental cabinet as proposed will not have supernational powers, but it could act on its own when the situation calls for prompt decisions. Each country of the alliance will keep its right of veto. Naturally, all the questions are still something of a project.

In the first place, the three great powers will have to come to an agreement among themselves on the work to be done. Then they will have to sell their ideas to the other nine nations of the Atlantic pact.

It will take some time to make a decision, and that is why it may be a good thing that no decision has been reached yet on such important problems. The article goes on, and I will cut it short:

The changes foreseen would make of NATO the central responsible authority for the solution of the great economic, political and military problems of the western world.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is not without a great deal of apprehension that I have read it. I am satisfied to support this government, and I appreciate its collective wisdom, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) is included in that. I understand his difficulties. But I do not want this parliament to become a rubber stamp of any supergovernment, of any world government such as that foreseen by Wendell Willkie, Eden, Churchill and others; and I hope that when Mr. Churchill comes to Ottawa he will be well received, but that nobody will forget that he is the leader of the Tory party of Great Britain.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Fournier (Hull): May I move the adjournment of the debate until later this day? I have consulted the leaders of the opposition parties and they have agreed. I would ask now that we proceed with item No 6 on the order paper.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE ACT

AMENDMENT TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN AREAS, ETC.

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939, to exclude certain areas of land from the provisions of section one of chapter forty-seven of the statutes of 1950 and thus render such areas eligible for assistance.

He said: Mr. Speaker, when notice was given of the resolution some days ago I departed from the usual practice, with the consent of the house, and gave an explanation of what was intended to be done under the measure which we proposed to introduce. I did that, expecting that the house might have ended at an earlier date, and that it might have been necessary to proceed with this resolution in a number of stages at one sitting of the house. The situation has not changed in that regard. We are now hoping that we are in the last sitting of the house, and this is still in the resolution stage, so that if we are going to enact the legislation it would be necessary to put it through about three different stages this afternoon in a rather short period of time. I am sure that hon. members will expect some explanation as to why it is important to do that at this late stage in this session.

As hon. members know, we have on the statute books the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. This act makes it possible for payments to be made in townships where there are eight bushels or less to the acre of a yield in any particular year. That, generally, is the principle underlying the act. There are other details that I need not go into at this time.

Then, in 1950 we amended the act to say that lands, which had been dealt with by a governing body, whether it be a provincial government, the federal government or even a municipality, lands that were held by these governments still, as of the 31st December, 1940, were not to be considered eligible for payment under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. The intent of that at the time was to