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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

LABOUR CODE: The Government's federal Labour Code bill was given second reading in the House of Commons Thursday and sent to the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations. In the House on April 6, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, commented upon it: - "The legislation provides what I consider are the appropriate procedures and conciliation machinery to deal with industrial disputes affecting undertakings over which this Parliament has jurisdiction. The essential purpose of the legislation is to create conditions favourable to the free exercise of collective bargaining between employers and employees. For that reason only such regulation of employer and employee activities in their industrial relationship which are considered as necessary for the protection of the public interest is incorporated in the legislation."

E.R.P. MOVE: The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, on Thursday, in the House of Commons, moved an amendment to the Export and Import Permits Act. He explained it, in part, as follows: -

"The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that materials available in Canada for export are used in a manner that contributes to the maximum effort in the reconstruction and re-

habilitation of Europe as envisaged under the European recovery programme.

"One of the keystones of the Hyde Park agreement whereby goods move without restriction from the United States into Canada, is the understanding that this special position accorded Canada will not be subject to abuse, and that the export controls of both countries are sufficiently co-ordinated as to allow for this free movement of goods between the two countries without the possibility of their flowing to a third country.

"It is an arrangement which has proven extremely useful to Canada, and one that should be maintained.

"The United States authorities on March 1 modified their regulations, in anticipation of the European recovery programme, to require export licenses for all commodities being exported to Europe and contiguous areas.

"One can readily understand that, with the enormous demands which will be placed on the productive capacity of the United States under the European recovery programme, it is desirable that there be no diversion of United States products to Canada for back-door trading, and that we shall be found working as closely and harmoniously together in this peace offensive as under the duress of hostilities."