

stand he had taken. But, when he wanted to object to a criticism advanced by the Moscow daily *Pravda*, it came out 'Pravada.'

"When the General wanted to refer to a previous speaker at the General Assembly's rostrum, it came out 'nostrum.' He would describe some delegate's machinations or confusions as 'higlady-piglady.' 'Façade' came out as 'fackaide.' He also had a slight lisp and, when he referred to 'the pithy remarks' of a previous speaker, the adjective that emerged would have a startling impact on his listeners and create just the opposite effect from what he had intended.

"All these oddities quickly became known among us as 'McNaughtonisms,' and they caused as much surprise among his ambassadorial colleagues at the United Nations as among his juniors in the Canadian Mission. We never knew what he might come up with next. George Ignatieff, who was then his principal adviser, in later years advanced the thesis that the General's propensity to mispronounce may have reflected an unconscious sense of humour.

"Whatever the explanation, we were quite unprepared for the choicest McNaughtonism of all, which fell from the General's lips on the night of March 31, 1948.

"At the beginning of that year, Canada had begun a two-year term as a member of the Security Council, the chairmanship of which rotated monthly among its member countries in alphabetical order. It was then the custom for each head of delegation to give a private dinner for his ambassadorial colleagues on the Council at the end of his month's term in the chair.

"The first time the General presided over the Council was in February, and it turned out to be a hectic month with more meetings than the Council had held in any month up to that time. When General McNaughton finished his term as chairman, he gave the customary dinner for his colleagues at the Canadian Club on the 18th floor of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel; and it went off uneventfully enough.

"In March, it was China's turn to preside. Cold War tensions had continued to mount, and they fuelled acrimonious debate, especially between such antagonists as Andrei Gromyko, the dour and hardnosed Soviet representative and the pugnacious Senator Warren Austin, a veteran of the wars on Capitol Hill.

"In addition, Canada's own relations with the Soviet Union were still sensitive, owing to the sensational defection to the Canadian authorities [in September 1945] of Igor Gouzenko, a cipher clerk at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa. His revelations about the extent of Soviet espionage and subversion in Canada and other Western nations had reverberated around the world.

"When General McNaughton went to the Chinese Ambassador's dinner on the last day of March, he found that Senator Austin had brought along Henry Wallace, who had been vice-president during one of Franklin Roosevelt's terms, and at that time was secretary of Commerce in Harry Truman's Cabinet.

"Chatting after dinner with Secretary Wallace and Mr. Gromyko, the General found the Russian even more gloomy than usual. Mr. Gromyko