

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

OFFERS INCREASED TECHNICAL AID: Canada's willingness to increase in 1954 its contribution to the United Nations technical assistance programme, provided that the support from other contributors warranted such action, was announced by Senator Stanley McKeen at the Fourth Technical Assistance Conference held in New York on November 12. He said:

"I am happy to speak for Canada at this Fourth Technical Assistance Conference, during which we hope to secure the financial support necessary to assure the continuance of technical assistance during the year 1954 as a truly expanded programme."

"I am sure that we all agree that the war on want is the road to peace. The United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, by helping to improve standards of living and thus increasing the sense of security and brotherhood among the peoples of the world, is a considerable factor in the building of firm foundations for world peace. In another way, too, it helps in achieving this same purpose."

"We all know that changes in methods of production, in industrial technology and so on, are likely to hurt someone, even though in the long run the great majority may benefit from them. Our technical assistance programme, by providing training and guidance where they may be most needed, can facilitate adjustment to the new ways and reduce to a minimum the temporarily harmful effects of too rapid industrial change."

"It is of course in the nature of a pilot plant - an experiment, but so far a successful one; successful not least because all countries can contribute something useful to others. In fact, and from a selfish point of

view, though we do not expect to be the direct recipient of technical assistance ourselves, we are sure that we, like others, shall share in the benefits of the programme as a whole.

"For these reasons the Canadian Government strongly supports the principle of technical assistance, and has contributed financially both to the Commonwealth scheme of technical assistance which is part of the Colombo Plan, and to the three previous United Nations programmes."

"As we have heard from the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and the Director-General of the Technical Assistance Administration, this fourth financial period marks a critical stage in the history of the programme. Now that our pilot plant has shown its worth, the requests for assistance have begun to outrun the resources available, and it is to be hoped that contributions received for the 1954 financial period will enable the programme to be continued at a useful level."

"Last year the Canadian Government contribution was \$800,000 which has all been paid in. I am pleased to announce on behalf of the Canadian Government, Mr. President, that it is prepared, subject to Parliamentary approval, to raise its contribution to the 1954 programme to a maximum of one million five hundred thousand dollars provided that the support from other contributors in our view warrants such action, and provided that the total of contributions is sufficient to keep the programme at a level which we regard as economically sound. Should either of these conditions not be fulfilled, the Canadian contribution would be adjusted accordingly."

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AUTO SALES OFF: New motor vehicle sales dipped for the first time this year in September, the number dropping six per cent to 30,029 from 31,936 last year and the retail value four per cent to \$75,755,003 from \$78,771,037, but the total for the first nine months of 1953 was up more than 21 per cent in both quantity and value to 375,897 vehicles retailed for \$943,362,003 from 309,464 sold for \$777,778,982 in the January-September period of 1952.

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STORE SALES HIGHER: Dollar sales of each of the six trades covered by the Bureau's monthly report on chain store sales and stocks were higher both in September and the nine months ending September this year than in the corresponding periods of 1952. Stocks of each were also higher in value at the beginning of September than a year earlier. September sales of chain food stores were up 13.8 per cent at \$62,659,000 compared to \$55,080,000.

LOANS TO GOVERNMENTS: Loans and advances by the Government of Canada to foreign governments outstanding at December 31, 1952, totalled \$1,870,200,000. This comprised loans to the United Kingdom amounting to \$1,356,600,000, and export credit loans of \$209,200,000 to France, \$110,200,000 to the Netherlands, \$55,400,000 to Belgium, \$49,400,000 to China, \$18,400,000 to Norway, \$10,000,000 to Czechoslovakia, and \$9,300,000 to Indonesia, and miscellaneous credits of \$51,700,000. The latter figure included loans to Greece and Roumania, advances to the U.S.S.R., funded interest on advances to France, and military relief settlement by France and the Netherlands.

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From 1939 to 1950 the proportion of Canadian business owned by residents of other countries dropped from 38% to 31%, although the percentage owned by U.S. interests rose from 22% to 23%.