

the secretary general or any other official of the united nations organization as to the Canadian view on calling a special session of the general assembly to discuss Britain's latest proposal with respect to the handing over of the mandate of Palestine to the world organization?

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The answer is no.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I thank the minister for such a prompt and brief answer.

NATIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): May I direct a question to the Secretary of State? Did Canada participate in the commonwealth conference on nationality and citizenship which has just been concluded in London? If so, who represented the Canadian government?

Hon. COLIN GIBSON (Secretary of State): I think that question should more properly be referred to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. GRAYDON: He would just say no.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I may say that the representative from the department of the Secretary of State was the under-secretary of state, Doctor Coleman.

COAL

IMPORTATION FROM UNITED STATES INTO MARITIMES PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, arising out of many telegrams I have received from civic bodies throughout the maritimes, stating that the fuel requirements of that area are being supplied by United States coal. Can the minister inform the house who are the importers of this additional coal, and can he assure us it is not being imported by the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation? In the second place I should like to inquire if the government of Nova Scotia or of New Brunswick has made representations to his department or advanced any proposals with regard to a settlement of the present work stoppage.

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): The answer to the second part of my hon. friend's question is no. The other part of the question comes within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, and no doubt he will answer it.

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): I must advise my hon. friend that coal control ended on December 31 last. For more than six years prior to that date the Department of Reconstruction accepted responsibility for seeing that every citizen of Canada received coal sufficient for his needs. That responsibility is now in the hands of others. The government has neither the machinery nor the power to protect any user of coal to the extent that he will receive his full supply. The only machinery left is the statutory dominion fuel board. I am told by that board that it has received requests from the province of Nova Scotia for certain help in rationing coal and in moving coal from one part of the maritime provinces, where there is a surplus, to another part where there is a deficit. I am informed that, to the extent its staff will permit, the board is helping in this way.

As far as the importation of coal is concerned, I have no knowledge of it. I do not know whether or not coal is being imported; or, if it is, I do not know who is importing it.

Mr. GILLIS: The point I am interested in is whether or not the company which is carrying on a strike at the present time is being paid the subsidy the government pays on United States coal.

Mr. HOWE: I have explained that there is an agreement with the company, and I notice on the order paper a motion asking that the agreement be tabled. I will attempt to facilitate that motion and table the agreement at the first opportunity.

Mr. GILLIS: The subsidy to which I have reference is the \$3.50 a ton paid on United States coal used for domestic purposes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW

On the orders of the day:

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, arising out of the announcement he made a few moments ago respecting the Canadian delegation to the preparatory com-