

*Supply—External Affairs*

are growing in importance and in intimacy, and I think that is to be welcomed. I hope it will not be long before we have diplomatic contact with every one of the Latin American states. That, of course, will also result in extra expenses.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Mr. Chairman, I am very delighted to hear all the information the minister has given us. It is certainly very enlightening, but I am not quite sure that the minister answered the question I asked. Is the government contemplating joining the Pan-American union?

**Mr. Pearson:** Not at the moment, Mr. Chairman. I do not think it would be true for me to say that there is any immediate likelihood of our going into the organization of American states, but it is something we should keep under consideration.

**Mr. Patterson:** Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask a question in connection with the general policies of the government. I wanted to ask it, in fact, before we went on with the details, but possibly I can put it now. This afternoon I placed on record several statements attributed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs relative to views expressed in connection with world government and his attitude on these matters. I wonder whether he could just take a moment somehow to clarify some of these statements and let us know exactly where he stands in relationship to that question?

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I omitted to deal with those references of my hon. friend; I do remember them. He has repeated the question, where do I stand on world government and national sovereignty? Mr. Chairman, I believe of course in national sovereignty in Canada and in other countries, because it is the expression of our political freedom. I think it is quite academic to talk about world government at this time. I am not going to say, and I have never said, that in the historical development of peoples and nations there may not come a time when the existing nation state will not be a big enough political unit to face the problems that will face humanity on this planet.

Having said that, I should go on to say that we are not likely to be faced with that contingency for a long time. My hon. friend quite rightly stresses the importance of national sovereignty, but he must also recall the importance that rightly attaches also to collective security and to collective pacts to protect our security. This has a relation to national sovereignty. When we join organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization we voluntarily give up, of our own

[Mr. Pearson.]

free will, some part of our sovereignty in the interest of our security. That is what our membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization means, and that is why it would be unwise, I think, to be too dogmatic about this matter.

I am quite satisfied, on the basis of my present knowledge, that a group of nation states each with national sovereignty can work together co-operatively in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There are some members of this organization—and I am sure the hon. member will approve of this—that are trying to work out special arrangements which will bring them closer together in a European system in which each one will give up some of its national sovereignty in the interest of European unity. That is a development which I, for one, welcome. I also recall, as an illustration of the danger of being dogmatic on these matters, a dark period in our history in 1940, when Mr. Churchill, always a fervent believer in British freedom and sovereignty, made an offer to France for complete political union, if that was necessary to win the war; an offer which was not, of course, accepted at that time.

**Mr. Fleming:** Was it not a union of their empires?

Item agreed to.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Item 616 is under the same heading. Shall it be carried now?

**Mr. Fleming:** Is it not usual to leave the supplementaries to the end?

**The Deputy Chairman:** If the committee wishes, the supplementaries can be left to the end. In some departments we are taking them under the heading as we come to them. The supplementary will be left.

95. Representation abroad—construction, acquisition or improvement of buildings, works, land, equipment and furnishings, and to the extent that blocked funds are available for these expenditures, to provide for payment from these foreign currencies owned by Canada and provided only for governmental or other limited purposes, \$1,987,207.

**Mr. Fleming:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to raise a matter on this item. This relates to representation abroad, construction, acquisition or improvement of buildings, works, land, equipment and furnishings, and so forth, a vote of approximately \$2 million. The details, beginning on page 178, set forth the amounts to be expended on the various diplomatic missions abroad. I draw attention to this, Mr. Chairman, because I am going to make some comments on the subitem on page 179 relating to operational expenses and capital equipment for the post in Brazil.