

*External Affairs*

me he was doing a bit of clever footwork, and I was a bit disappointed. One of my reasons for rising at this time was to recall to the minister's mind that particular speech, and the mechanics outlined in it so that he could reset his sights.

As I said a moment ago, this business of external affairs should hold no mysteries for the members of this house. I am reasonably sure it does not for most of the citizens of Canada. Within the memory of most of us in this house, we have seen two wars—wars that have come to us from the outside. We have seen Canada's position in those wars, and we had a fairly good idea of the things for which we were fighting. I well remember the old league of nations. I was a member of the league of nations society. I decorated many platforms between the two wars in preaching the gospel of collective security. I thought we had everybody in the world convinced. I remember very well the leader of the opposition being in that organization before he became a politician. He too used to take a stand on matters of collective security. We remember these things, and there is nothing mysterious about it. We know how we get into depressions and what brings about wars. We have seen the machine of propaganda at work twice during our lifetime building a country up and then tearing it down. If you read the press today it is difficult to be sure where propaganda ends and facts begin.

I should like to go back over the speech of the Secretary of State for External Affairs a little bit. All through that speech—and I think correctly—the minister suggested that there were two extremes in the world; and the safe and sane and only course for this country to pursue was to provide a cushion between the extremes, so that there would not be any fear of a clash or a war during our lifetime. I agree with him on that. But I cannot see the government to which he belongs following that particular course at this time. I myself do not think that we are doing all we could. I do not think that we are living up to our obligations under the United Nations charter. I agree with the last speaker that psychoanalyzing the East, understanding them, solving their difficulties, and all that kind of thing, is a pretty tough proposition so far as we are concerned. But we have made certain commitments within the United Nations Organization that we as a country can live up to. I do not think we are living up to them. I want to qualify that by saying that I think the main requirement in the world today is to feed hungry people. With that in mind the United Nations have set up the food and agricultural organization. That body of experts from all over the world

decided on certain policies; they decided on certain things that should be done with regard to feeding hungry people. At some time in this debate I should like the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) to tell us whether we as a country are doing all we can to live up to the proposals made by that particular branch of the United Nations. I do not think we are, and that is something we can do.

Secondly, I do not think we are living up to our obligations under the United Nations charter in not accepting the report of a committee of experts on economic affairs, which was recently made. The main consideration of the committee in that particular report was to devise ways and means within each country to maintain full employment. Certain recommendations were made. They are rather lengthy. I imagine most hon. members have read them. I am not going to quote them tonight. Boiled down, the committee recommended that in each country, in so far as it was possible, full employment should be maintained. They recommended certain measures that should be adopted if employment was slipping. For example, they recommended a public investment program. They recommended some social security measures; they recommended keeping purchasing power as high as it possibly could be kept if the unemployment figure went above what they considered a normal level which was, I think, around 4 or 5 per cent of the working population. Our figure has gone beyond that. We have a large number of people unemployed in the country. I do not think that any of the main recommendations of the committee have been acted upon by this government. The fact of the matter is the reverse is true, because our representative in that particular field did not agree with them. I have a copy of his statement to the committee on the measures that they recommended for the purpose of maintaining full employment. He disagreed with them completely. He told them that as far as he was concerned they should lie in abeyance until such time as the government had an opportunity to study them, and so forth. He felt that the recommendations made by these experts from every country in the world in that particular field were impracticable and could not be applied in this country at this time. If they could not be applied in this country at this time, or back in September, 1949, then they could not be applied in any country in the world; because, in my opinion, this is the only country that has surplus resources on which people could be put to work. I think we are falling down in that respect. The least we can do is to do the things that are possible within our own country that come within the structure of the United Nations.