

In his speech the other day, in effect the Prime Minister warned the little nations away from attempting to get a non-permanent seat on the security council, because they were not able to put up as much force as he could. A few months ago the policy of this government was that Canada should be a leader of the small nations. This is what I find in a press dispatch:

#### Canada to Lead Small Nations

Senator Wishart Robertson, president of the National Liberal Federation, last night asserted that Canada will go to the peace conference "virtually the leader of the smaller countries among the united nations."

This press dispatch is dated at Saskatoon January 19, 1944. Now we find that the government has shifted its stand and wishes to become one of the middle-sized nations. It is now trying to shove the small nations one rung further down the ladder. A few months ago the government was bewailing any attempt to play power politics. Now, in effect, the Prime Minister is advocating bare-faced power politics; and the C.C.F., dutiful as usual, is following along behind and advocating the same thing.

No other nation says there should be a new group of middle-sized nations with more rights. There is nothing about it in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals or in the Yalta proposals. The sad feature for humanity is that it is complicating an already complex plan. The suggestion for middle-sized powers may well be the source of much trouble. It asks for a dangerous distinction. What is a middle-sized nation? The Prime Minister mentioned Brazil, the Netherlands and Australia. The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Martin) mentioned Belgium and Canada. Well, what about Turkey, Sweden, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Italy, Rumania, Czechoslovakia? They will all want to be classed as middle-sized nations too. The other day the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour admitted, rather dubiously, that it would be difficult to define just what a middle-sized nation is, and he was dead right. It will be even more difficult to determine the preferred position that these middle-sized nations are to get. And all this is caused because the government is dodging, twisting and turning to get away from a permanent commonwealth seat, with the result that Canada is not to get her rightful place in this world organization.

I had meant to say something about regional arrangements and regional agencies, particularly as they apply to the Pacific coast. As my time is almost up, however, I shall not deal with those matters in detail. But I think the government should tell the house what plans

[Mr. Green.]

it is going to advocate by way of regional organization. For instance, there is now a Pacific council, and we should like to know what that council has been doing. We should like to know what the government thinks about having a regional organization in the Pacific, where there are questions of defence, and communications; airways, through Alaska and into Russia, and thence to other parts of Asia, airways to points across the Pacific ocean such as Australia and New Zealand. There is the question of a highway to Alaska, and the connecting link by ferry with Russia, so as to join the two great continents of North America and Asia. There is the question of trade. Canadians who live on the Pacific coast are vitally interested in all those questions. We should like to know what the government will be proposing at San Francisco concerning regional organization for the Pacific. Canadians, with our blood brothers the Australians and New Zealanders, have the responsibility of deciding, in conjunction with the Americans, the Chinese, the Russians and the Dutch, and of course the folks of the motherland, just what sort of future there shall be around the shores of that great ocean.

In conclusion may I say that there will be more world conferences. This is only the first. At every one of those conferences the lives of our sons and their sons, the survival of the nation and the continuance of civilization will be at stake. The Canadian people are in no mood and they will be in no mood to have their representatives make commitments that are only half commitments, that leave open a line of retreat. Canada's commitments must be clear-cut, they must be fully binding. Canada must fulfil not only the letter of the law but also the spirit. Then as a nation she will be acting as every true Canadian would act. Further, the Canadian people are in no mood to have their representatives start an argument or perhaps a dispute by insisting on a regrouping of powers other than those occupying the permanent seats in the security council under the Dumbarton Oaks plan, a regrouping into middle-sized or secondary states, or whatever you wish to call them, and small nations. There should be no demanding of recognition and extra rights for the middle-sized nations because Canada happens to be one of them. The Canadian people are not interested in having Canada declared a middle-sized nation or a secondary state, but they are interested in Canada's developing into a great world power, standing beside Great Britain and the other dominions in the British empire. That is the destiny of this nation.