

REPORTED IN PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

BUDGET DAY MARCH 22: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced in the House of Commons on March 15 that, barring unforeseen contingencies, he expected to bring down the Budget on Tuesday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m.

In answer to a question by the member for Peel, Mr. Graydon, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, made a statement in the House of Commons on March 15 concerning the signing and tabling of the North Atlantic Security Pact. The brief discussion was as follows:

Mr. Graydon: "May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs when he expects the North Atlantic Security Pact to be signed and ready for tabling in the House of Commons?"

Mr. Pearson: "It has been hoped that a draft of the North Atlantic Security Pact could be tabled this afternoon, and arrangements to that end were being made by the Governments concerned. One Government, however, has asked for a short delay. It is hoped now that the draft--of course it will not be signed--will be tabled and made public on Friday."

Mr. Graydon: "The Secretary of State for External Affairs speaks of a draft pact. It will be the pact that has been agreed upon by the signatory nations?"

Mr. Pearson: "It will be a pact that has been agreed upon in principle by the Governments concerned, subject to any changes they may wish to put forward at the conference which will be called for the signing of the pact. It is hoped that that conference will take place some time in April."

The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, made a statement in the House of Commons on March 15 concerning support prices for western oats and western barley during the crop year 1949-50. He spoke in part as follows:

"The Government has decided to support the price of western oats and western barley during the crop year 1949-50 at the same support prices that are in effect for the present crop. These prices are 6½ cents per bushel basis No. 1 feed oats in store Fort William-Port Arthur and 90 cents per bushel basis No. 1 feed barley in store Fort William-Port Arthur. As in previous years, the Canadian Wheat Board will administer the support prices for these two grains. I want to emphasize that these are support prices only, and producers will have the advantage of whatever higher prices prevail during 1949-50."

RADIOACTIVE MINERAL RESEARCH: The increasing importance of radioactive minerals in the Canadian economy is reflected in the Estimates recently tabled in the House of Commons. Included in the Estimates of the federal Bureau of Mines is an item of \$268,130 for the investigation of radioactive ores.

The Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr.

MacKinnon, reports that prospecting for radioactive minerals has shown a marked increase following the rescinding of regulations late in 1947 which reserved all new discoveries in Northwest Territories and Yukon to the Crown, and later the removal of similar restrictions by the provinces. Action of the federal Government in guaranteeing a fixed price for uranium has further stimulated the search for radioactive minerals. Samples from prospectors are forwarded by them to the Geological Survey in Ottawa for Geiger analysis of radio-activity and those showing promise then go to the Bureau of Mines for complete analysis. Due to security regulations all test and investigative work on bulk samples for processing the ores is also handled by the Bureau.

Provision also has been made in the estimates of the Bureau of Mines for a radioactive tracer laboratory.

WORK IN LABORATORY

Essentially, the laboratory will provide the Bureau with the latest experimental means available in the study of steel and other metal structures. Work in the laboratory will be largely of a pioneering nature in which investigations will be made into the application of radioactive tracer materials to industrial and scientific problems.

A further provision in the Estimates is an item of \$1,598,850 for mineral resources investigations of which \$105,000 is for use in extending the facilities of the hydrogenation laboratory of the Bureau of Mines.

The Minister advises that the equipment to be installed will enable the use of much higher pressures than present equipment permits in conducting hydrogenation tests on heavy crudes, refinery residues, and bitumen. The first problem to be tackled immediately the new equipment is installed is one arising from the greatly increased production of crude oil from the Leduc and Redwater fields in Alberta. This has been adversely affecting the marketing of the lower grade asphaltic oils of the Wainwright and Lloydminster fields and would have a similar bearing on the marketing of the asphaltic high sulphur bitumen from the McMurray area.

With the new equipment the Bureau will be in a position to carry its research on these materials much further than is now possible in obtaining maximum yields of high grade products.

It will be possible with the equipment to use pressures up to 20,000 pounds per sq. inch and at the same time to simplify the process. Use of such pressures is well in advance of practice in Germany where pressures up to 10,000 pounds are used.

CANADIAN PROPOSAL ACCEPTED: Dr. J.H. Van Royen of the Netherlands declared in the Security Council on March 14 that, "in the interests of agreement" the Netherlands Government was willing to accept the Canadian proposal as formulated by General A.G.L. McNaughton at the Council meeting on Friday, March 11. At that time General McNaughton had suggested that the United Nations Commission for Indonesia should be instructed "to assist in reaching an agreement between the parties as to the time and conditions under which the proposed (round table) conference at The Hague could be held."

General McNaughton added that it should be understood "of course, that these exploratory discussions under the auspices of the United Nations Commission for Indonesia would be without prejudice to the resolution of the Security Council of January 28 and to the rights, claims or positions of the parties".

Finally, the Canadian representative had expressed the opinion that no new resolution of the Security Council was necessary and that it would be sufficient if the Council President would communicate in this sense with the United Nations Commission, the U.N. Press Bureau reported.

UN ACCOMPLISHMENTS: General A.G.L. McNaughton, Canada's Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, addressed the National Executive, United Nations Association in Toronto on March 12. On the point of the general accomplishments of the UN he spoke as follows:

"...At this present day the United Nations has not yet completed its Third Session but already there is literally an amazing accomplishment to the credit of the Organization. This is made up of the sum of the very significant advances which have been achieved in each of the component councils, commissions, committees, and specialized agencies. Everywhere you look -- in the groups dealing with economic and social questions; in the groups concerned with the problems of food and trade and transport, with labour and health, with refugees, with communications, with postal services, with education and scientific and cultural matters -- in everyone of these great categories of endeavour you find men and women from all over the world coming together, stating their problems without fear or favour, consulting with one another bringing their minds into agreement and hammering out solutions by the method of debate -- solutions which are then recommended to the nations of the world and, in many cases, promptly adopted.

"In all these matters it is evident that accomplishment is on a rising curve and it seems that with each step forward the habit of agreement becomes somewhat less difficult. All of which sets a very inspiring example and

stimulus to those of us who have to labour in the field of the political and security questions which today trouble the nations, principally by reason of the rift between East and West for which no bridge has yet been found and which therefore remains an ever-present difficulty and anxiety in every question which comes under consideration.

"By reason of our representation at San Francisco and then at all the subsequent meetings of the Assembly, Canada has become aware at least in a general way of these security problems, many of which afflict the world....

"Unfortunately the list of disputes which have come to the Council has been very long. It has ranged around the world from Berlin to Trieste and Greece and Palestine; to Kashmir and Indonesia and Korea and other places where angry men have stood in opposition with arms in their hands, -- where, on occasion, peace has broken down in acts of war, of riot and insurrection, of sabotage and murder, -- where, only with the greatest difficulty and by reason of the persistent and devoted endeavours of the servants of the United Nations on the spot has the conflict been kept in bounds and held from precipitating some general conflagration. Truly the world today is a very disturbed place.

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"We have heard much in the way of criticism of the United Nations for not preventing the outbreak of these disturbances. But they are the consequence of ancient nations rivalries or of group ambitions or animosities of long standing, which have flared up anew. They are the troubles for which the United Nations was set up to find an answer, not the faults of the organization itself. In some circles also it has become a habit -- a very bad and unfortunate and unjustified habit I would say -- to impute the competency of the Security Council.

"My answer to this is that despite the fact that the Security Council does not as yet dispose of any armed force for use as police, and could not therefore in any case compel obedience but on the contrary it is restricted to the employment solely of the arts of persuasion, with its only weapon an informed world opinion -- I say that despite all these restrictions which many people might consider insuperable handicaps, nevertheless there is not a single dispute which has come before the Council which has not been checked and in some measure advanced towards solution. And so, I for one -- and I think many others as well -- will hold with reason to the hopeful view that we are -- even if slowly -- advancing towards a state where the rule of law will in the end prevail...."