

Speech from the Throne

William Albert Boucher, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Rosthern, introduced by Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent and Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner.

Hon. Stuart Sinclair Garson, member for the electoral district of Marquette, introduced by Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent and Mr. W. G. Weir.

Leopold Demers, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Laval-Two Mountains, introduced by Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent and Hon. Joseph Jean.

George Alexander Drew, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Carleton, introduced by Mr. John Bracken and Hon. W. Earl Rowe.

George Clyde Nowlan, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Digby-Annapolis-Kings, introduced by Mr. George A. Drew and Mr. P. C. Black (Cumberland).

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that, when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The first concern of government in world affairs is to ensure peace and security. To this end, Canada continues to support the principles of the united nations charter. Our foreign policy is based on the realities and dangers of the existing situation. One of these is the communist menace. Until the united nations are able to provide an adequate guarantee of peace and security, peace-loving nations will also be obliged to seek security by combining their strength. The North Atlantic nations, including Canada, are negotiating a security pact. The treaty when concluded will be laid before you for approval. The North Atlantic treaty will supplement the treaty of mutual guarantee signed by the western European nations at Brussels last year. Such regional arrangements are provided for in the united nations charter.

Despite unsettled conditions and the disruptive activities of international communism, the nations of western Europe are making progress toward recovery. Aid from North America is contributing

[Mr. Speaker.]

substantially to the restoration of economic activity, thereby increasing their ability to resist internal and external aggression.

At home we have been blessed with good crops. Industrial expansion is taking place at an unprecedented rate. There have been few differences between employers and employees leading to stoppages in work. Inflationary pressures are less pronounced. Employment is at higher levels than ever before. In striking contrast with communist countries, the free economy of our country is demonstrating its ability to provide for all a high standard of living, social justice and individual freedom. It is the view of my ministers that a steady advance toward the goal of social justice for all is an effective safeguard against the influence of subversive doctrines.

The people of Newfoundland, by a majority vote in a referendum, expressed their desire to enter confederation. The precise terms of union were subsequently negotiated with an authorized delegation from Newfoundland. You will be asked without delay to approve the agreement, signed on December 11, and to make provision for the entry of Newfoundland as a province of Canada on March 31. I am confident the union will be of mutual advantage to Newfoundland and Canada.

Amendments to the Supreme Court Act to make the Supreme Court of Canada the court of last resort for Canada will be submitted for your consideration.

You will be asked to approve, subject to the approval of the United States authorities, the agreement concluded in 1941 for the development of navigation and power in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin.

You will be asked to make the further legislative provision necessary to implement the agreements for the sale of agricultural products to the United Kingdom.

With a view to assisting in the restoration of world trade, so vital to general security and our own prosperity, Canada participated in formulating the charter for the international trade organization and the general agreement on tariffs and trade, which will be submitted for your approval. Within the next few months Canada will engage in further negotiations with thirteen other countries to broaden the scope of the tariff concessions which we obtained at Geneva in 1947. The government will continue to press vigorously for the lowering of tariff and other barriers and, as quickly as possible, the expansion of trade on a multilateral basis.

Meanwhile the government is seeking to remove specific obstacles to the continued sales of Canadian products in our traditional export markets, and to that end is co-operating closely with the nations concerned in the implementation of the European recovery program.

The continuing committee established by the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom to review the progress of trade between the two countries is presently meeting in London.

In the interests of both domestic and foreign trade, legislation will be introduced with the object of promoting extensive and adequately safeguarded use of the national trade mark "Canada Standard" associated with goods which conform to prescribed standards, and of requiring proper labelling of goods to prevent deception of the public.

Improvement in our United States dollar position has resulted in the removal of certain restrictions imposed in November, 1947. Further restrictions will be removed as the position improves. So long as trading and financial conditions remain unstable, a degree of control over foreign exchange will be