

under Yugoslav law, a citizen of Yugoslavia, the Canadian government will not be able to grant him any measure of protection as long as he remains in Yugoslavia.

The group, which is now assembled in Montreal, have satisfied the various regulations applicable to their movement to Yugoslavia both in regard to themselves and to goods purchased by them. No doubt they are aware of their possible loss of status under Canadian law but they are free to go to Yugoslavia or to any other country if they so wish.

On May 21 the hon. member for York West (Mr. Adamson) asked whether I would take steps to see that the Canadian passports carried by the expatriate Yugoslavs now in process of returning to their homeland be protected in such a way as to prevent their alteration or transference to other persons, and ensure that each Canadian passport issued to this group will be easily identifiable on its reentry to Canada. I can assure the hon. member that every effort will be made to guard against the misuse of these Canadian passports.

Allegations have been made in the press that improper methods have been used to persuade residents of Canada to return to Yugoslavia or to contribute to the funds which have been raised to finance the return of other residents of Canada. Should any evidence come to hand as to the methods used in these or any other cases which would warrant action by the government, it will not hesitate to take such action.

Mr. CHURCH: Are the Yugoslavs being given priorities in shipping? If so, with what companies, when Canadian citizens can get no shipping at all?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Any arrangements that have been made for transport were made by themselves or through persons other than agents of the Canadian government.

Mr. GRAYDON: Is there a reciprocal provision whereby people may bring assets from a communist controlled country to a democratic country such as ours? It seems to me that we are giving them certain privileges which they would not grant to their own citizens who might be coming here.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I think we have to judge our regulations and laws on their merits, and not on their conformity or otherwise with laws of other countries, some of which our people would not readily accept.

Mr. GRAYDON: I think that the public would not expect this government or the

government of any democratic country to be too soft with people who are known as communists and who would revolutionize our system of government.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I would point out that these are general regulations. There are no special regulations made for any special class of resident of Canada. The regulations are general and I think they have to be judged on the basis of whether or not they are proper for the Canadian people.

Mr. FERGUSON: Our esteemed minister of immigration (Mr. Glen) is unfortunately in hospital, but I should like to direct a reminder to his department to remember, when Yugoslavs wish to enter Canada as immigrants, the action of the Yugoslavs now leaving who are exporting all they can from this country.

NEWFOUNDLAND

DELEGATION TO CANADA—TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): I notice in this morning's *Ottawa Journal* that a delegation from Newfoundland is bound for Washington to discuss a trade agreement between that country and the United States. First I should like to ask when the conference is to be held in connection with that country joining the Canadian confederation. Second, if they make a trade agreement with the United States will it interfere with the conference on confederation and preferences?

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Within the last twenty-four hours June 25 has been fixed as the date for the opening of the meeting between the representatives of the assembly in Newfoundland and the representatives of Canada. Of course this government would not like to make any comment upon any action that is being taken with respect to trade agreements by the government of Newfoundland. It may very well be that the existence or non-existence of agreements will be matters to be considered at the conference, but this government would not presume to volunteer any advice or voice any criticism as to what is being done by another government.

Mr. GRAYDON: How many will compose the Newfoundland delegation?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: We have not been informed of the composition of the delegation.