

The Members of the United Nations have up until now acted in concert in meeting these needs, but often they were far from acting in harmony. The contributing countries did not respond to the same degree in fulfilling their commitments. Promises were made and not lived up to and, in some cases, even promises were not made. Neither did the receiving countries amongst themselves show anything like the same degree of effort to get on with their recovery and bury political differences, nor did they show the same degree of appreciation and comprehension of the efforts of the suppliers; an appreciation which we certainly did not think of asking for because we did not envisage having our motives in supporting an international humanitarian endeavour attacked.

Nevertheless, despite all the difficulties which have been encountered in the international organization and distribution of relief through UNRRA, Canada favours an approach to the 1947 problem which will rest on concerted action by the United Nations.

Mr. LaGuardia said that he was here to speak of tomorrow, not of yesterday. We like the thought thus expressed but, at least as far as Canada is concerned, we cannot agree that what is to be done tomorrow can be undertaken without regard to what happened yesterday.

Canada has played an important part in supplying the needs of the world in the past two years. The extent of this contribution, however, was made possible by unusual conditions in earlier years. These resulted in the accumulation of substantial surpluses on which we were able to draw. For example, our wheat exports in 1943-44 were some sixty million bushels more than our total crop in that year. Then again, our crop this year cannot be classed as a bumper crop although fortunately it has been somewhat above average.

In making this effort we have reduced our reserves to the point where at the end of the last crop year, they were well below what could normally be called minimum working inventories.

During the past few years, our people have made a real effort to meet the world food shortage and rehabilitation needs. The acreage sown in bread grains has increased and a substantial proportion of our production in other lines has been allocated to purposes of relief and rehabilitation, despite urgent demands in our own country. In this connection, I might mention that we are still rationing butter and meat in addition to sugar.

These efforts to meet the needs of the last few years have been made cheerfully but we are now faced with convincing proof that, when an effort to meet a particular need results in a serious dislocation of the domestic economy, there are many real and continuing effects on our ability to meet other urgent demands placed upon us. To give but one example, our current transportation difficulties in the movement of cereals are in large measure occasioned by the fact that our complicated system for the movement of grain to sea-board had to be operated this year without the normal quantities in the long pipe-line through which these supplies must move.

It is unfortunately the case that, apart altogether from financial considerations (which are now, of course, a matter of grave concern to all