

to be politically realistic, to expect any government or the members of any parliament to vote that their state should make a contribution to the ordinary administrative budget of this organization, which would be higher on a per capita basis than the per capita contribution of the United States.

Under the recommendation of the Contributions Committee, this difficulty does not arise, as the per capita contributions of the citizens of the United States would appear to be higher than that of the citizens of any other nation. The Canadian delegation does not ask that the exact relationship proposed by the Contributions Committee be continued, but we do say that, if a ceiling is to be placed on the percentage to be contributed by the United States, and if that ceiling is substantially below the present percentage, it will be necessary to extend a ceiling to all the Member states whose per capita contribution would otherwise exceed that of the United States taxpayers.

In other words, a ceiling on the total contributions of any Member state necessitates a ceiling on a per capita basis on the amount citizens of any other nation are required to pay. We recognize, as the United States delegation has pointed out, that there is a difference between budgets for ordinary administration and for operational purposes to help repair the ravages of war. As regards the latter category, Canada has in the past assumed substantial responsibility and is prepared to give serious and sympathetic consideration to other like problems as they rise. But when it comes to the ordinary administrative expenses of the United Nations, I submit that we cannot ask the taxpayers in any country to pay more per head than the taxpayers in the United States.

Senator Vandenberg has said, and we agree, that this is not a matter of money, but a matter of principle. We can all afford to pay whatever is necessary in material values to achieve the goals of the United Nations, if our decisions are widely regarded as right and wise and just, as between partners in this common enterprise, but I am convinced that we would be risking just the kind of reaction the Norwegian and American representatives warned against if we were to accept a scale of contributions which place on the taxpayers of any other country, a per capita rate higher than that placed on the country which is fortunate to have the highest per capita income of the whole world.

The Canadian delegation is here to help build a world organ that will stand any stress or strain that the future may bring, but we do not feel that it would be either sound or just that we or any other nation be asked to pay more per individual than the most well-to-do among us pays.

It is for this reason that I venture to say to the Committee, that if we place a ceiling on the total contribution of any nation, we must also establish a ceiling on a per capita basis which would be generally applicable to all Member states that would be unfairly affected by such a policy.