

*United Nations Agreement*

director general, but the director general is not to vote. What will happen in case of a tie on any question or any number of questions?

Section 6 of article III makes reference to technical committees. They would be, I take it, engineering committees, consisting of men capable of laying out and building railroads; railroad engineers, men who design and lay out tracks; also, perhaps, electricians. Would each of the member nations have the privilege of supplying engineers in these various technical branches to assist in rebuilding? Perhaps those are all the questions I have to ask.

Mr. CLAXTON: The hon. member for Davenport asked first a question with regard to article I of the agreement.

Mr. MacNICOL: Article II, subsection 1.

Mr. CLAXTON: I believe it was article I, subsection 1, in connection with which he referred to the administration having the power to acquire property, and he inquired as to what property that might refer to. I think it should be understood that the agreement generally creates UNRRA as a kind of international corporation or partnership, and it is intended that with the proceeds and contributions made by the member governments, as the act of their constitutional authorities, the administration will then buy where it can best buy the supplies that are needed. I should interpolate that it is provided in the financial resolutions that member governments will be asked to contribute not less than ten per cent of their contribution in free exchange—money that can be spent outside their respective countries, but that the rest of their contribution can be given in the equivalent of their cash contribution in goods produced in their own country. Once that is done, however, whether the goods be contributed as equivalent of cash or whether they be purchased by the administration, they will become the property of the administration and will be handled by the administration, so that all the relief supplies acquired by UNRRA would belong to the administration and be distributed by the administration in accordance with policies laid down by the council. That is the reason for that provision in the agreement.

Mr. MacNICOL: Would it refer to the purchasing of land or buildings?

Mr. CLAXTON: There is no intention of purchasing land anywhere. However, in an occupied country, the administration might have to acquire shelters for displaced persons, storehouses or something of that kind, but there is no intention of purchasing anything

[Mr. MacNicol.]

of a permanent nature. The intention is to give relief, and provide measures for rehabilitation that will assist in giving relief.

The second question asked by the hon. member for Davenport was whether or not Malta would receive assistance under the agreement, and he referred there to article I, section 2, paragraph (a) of the agreement. Malta does not appear to me to qualify under the agreement, because, thank Providence and the fortitude of the people who defended Malta, it has never been occupied by the enemy and therefore will never be territory liberated from the enemy, whereas the agreement provides only for relief for territories so liberated. There is, however, another reason why Malta would not qualify for relief, and possibly this also applies to the case of Egypt, which the hon. member also mentioned. Under financial resolution No. 14 adopted by the council it is provided in section 16:

It shall be the policy of the administration not to deplete its available resources for the relief and rehabilitation of any area whose government is in a position to pay with suitable means of foreign exchange.

The British government is the government which controls Malta, and the British government not only is in a position to pay but also is a very large contributor to the resources of UNRRA. So that on those two counts Malta would not qualify, and on the second count Egypt would not, though perhaps the case of Egypt may be less certain in view of the special position with regard to Great Britain. In any event, however, I should think Egypt would be regarded as a country which was able to pay.

The next question was with regard to paragraph (b) of section 2 of article I, and in that connection the hon. member asked what would UNRRA be purchasing. I think I have already answered that question. Ultimately all supplies made available for relief will be purchased by UNRRA, so that it will purchase everything it supplies, although in the great proportion of cases it will receive supplies in kind in the equivalent of cash that is contributed.

Mr. MacNICOL: And food?

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes. As regards the articles that will be furnished by way of relief, that is covered partly by article I of the agreement, section 2, paragraph (a); and also by resolution No. 1 which was read this afternoon by the hon. member for St. Mary (Mr. Fautoux) and which perhaps I need not put on the record again. If I may read the headings, they cover (1) relief supplies; essential consumer goods, to meet immediate needs, such as food, fuel, clothing,