

assistance can, in their turn, be divided first into the ordinary United Nations programme, which comes out of the annual budget of the United Nations, and the budgets of the various Specialized Agencies, through which Canada has already made a pretty respectable contribution in terms of money and in terms of men. And second there is the scheme which I think the author of the resolution has particularly in mind, that known as the United Nations Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance.

That programme and the other United Nations programme, is carefully organized and controlled by various international bodies. There is, first, the Technical Assistance Committee, under the Economic and Social Council, which represents the 18 governments on the Council. It has a sort of general supervisory jurisdiction over all United Nations schemes of this kind. And then there is the Technical Assistance Administration, the administering body of the Secretariat, which looks after particular schemes, and which now is presided over by a distinguished Canadian, Dr. Keenleyside, who has served in our External Affairs service. And, finally, there is the Technical Assistance Board, which includes representatives of the various Specialized Agencies, and which meets periodically to co-ordinate the work done by these various Agencies and by outside agencies in order to keep overlapping and duplication to a minimum.

That is a very important function; because, as hon. members know, it is very easy in schemes of this kind, especially internationally organized and administered schemes, to duplicate and to overlap. It is very important that the various programme should be balanced, that they should be co-ordinated under wise central direction, and that business judgment should be used to the maximum extent possible in their implementation.

One thing of course that has to be determined by the supervising agencies--and this is also of importance--is the absorptive capacity of a country for technical assistance or for economic aid, so that money will not be poured into a country that cannot be productively used for particular projects, and that the applications of the various governments for help and for funds are carefully scrutinized. As Professor Frank Scott of Montreal, who was concerned with a particular technical assistance programme of the United Nations in Burma, has reminded us in a pamphlet "World War Against Poverty" published by the Royal Society of Canada, it is customary for governments being human, to ask for more than they can usefully spend in a limited time. All these things have to be considered before work can start, or else the work will not be done as effectively as it should be.

Now it is true, and it has been pointed out by previous speakers, that while this may be one of the most important aspects of United Nations work, it is not a phase of that work which gets very much publicity or very many headlines, and that is unfortunate. Too often do we interpret the United Nations in terms of political controversy and not in terms of constructive social and economic activity. It is true and it is too bad that conflicts and controversy are their own publicity agents, but very constructive, quiet social and economic work has no one to sing its praise. Those