

Supply—Health and Welfare

house. If I were making a speech this afternoon and were in the same position in which I was then, I would use identically the same words. At that time I said:

There should be no economic or geographic boundaries in equality of opportunity for medical care. The aims of the science of healing should be international and the same over all the world. Canada must take her place along with similar organizations in other nations in preventing wars and giving adequate health services to all people. The present is an opportune time to form an international organization whose first object is to give better health and medical services to all people. Millions of the people of the world are suffering physically and mentally as a result of the war. A united nations health organization would provide much toward the welfare and future happiness of mankind. Now that military victory in Europe has been achieved, peace will bring many difficult problems for solution. We can best solve these problems and reach a better understanding by the relief of suffering.

I closed my speech at that time by using the following words:

The extent of co-operation outlined in the resolution is of such magnitude that it is difficult to believe. But one fact is outstanding, that in the present troubled state of the peoples of the world, more will be accomplished by the world health organization to promote peace and good will than by any other agency in the power of the nations. Ignorance and prejudices will be broken down by healing the sufferings of humanity. During the war we glibly talked of the new world to be built after victory. Let us build that new world by a combined effort to eliminate disease and misery. I appeal to the members of the Canadian parliament to support this resolution unanimously.

At that time we all had high hopes that nine years from that time we would be living in a peaceful world, but as time has passed we find ourselves living in a period of uncertainty. However, in so far as this organization is concerned, I feel that in view of the accomplishments it has achieved it is still a great power, and that we should continue to carry on this work by cultivating the spirit of co-operation among all peoples in an effort to banish disease and misery.

The Canadian delegation to the eighth world assembly was headed by Dr. P. E. Moore, director of Indian health services of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Dr. O. H. Curtis, chief medical officer of the province of Prince Edward Island; Mr. M. G. Clark, of the Department of Finance; Mr. T. J. Giles of the Department of National Health and Welfare as secretary; Dr. G. Roy, member of parliament for Labelle and Mr. Allen Anderson of the Canadian embassy in Mexico City were attached to the delegation.

At this point I would like to pay tribute to the civil servants who were part of the delegation. Dr. Moore was elected chairman of the administration, finance and legal committee, one of the two main committees of

the assembly and possibly the most important. In this position he accomplished outstanding work, as at times he had to deal with most difficult decisions. Mr. Clark, from the Department of Finance, was outstanding in the field of finance, particularly in regard to the Canadian position. As secretary Mr. Giles was highly capable, conscientious and efficient. Mr. A. Anderson of the Canadian embassy staff and the Canadian ambassador did everything possible in the way of help and guidance to the delegation.

In paying tribute to these gentlemen I might remark that so long as Canada has civil servants of the type attached to the delegation, matters of this kind are in highly capable hands.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Blair: Mr. Chairman, when the committee adjourned for the dinner recess I was discussing the eighth world health assembly at Mexico City. For the information of hon. members I might give something of the history and objectives of the world health organization.

The interim commission at the inception of the world health organization recommended to the first assembly that malaria, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and maternal and child welfare be given priority. When the assembly met it sanctioned these projects and added two more, namely nutrition and sanitation.

When the organization was first formed there were health problems which had arisen from the second world war, demanding some immediate action for which governments had asked assistance. Later government requests moved from these priorities towards assistance in a broad range of activities for the betterment of health.

The general program of work falls into two classes: international services on behalf of all governments of the world, and advisory services to individual governments or groups of governments. It provides health services of a character which could be carried on only by an international agency; (a) it develops, supervises and revises international sanitary regulations which govern international quarantine procedures; (b) it provides on a day to day basis radio information concerning communicable diseases to governments and others directly concerned.

[Mr. Blair.]