

*United Nations Agreement*

With regard to the rumour that UNRRA is not allowed to enter the field because of difficulties with the military authorities, there are no difficulties that I have heard of, and I am assured by our representatives at Washington, and by the chairman of the committee on supplies, that there is the closest cooperation. Misunderstanding occurs by reason of a misapprehension of the agreement. Article 7 reads:

Notwithstanding any other provision herein contained, while hostilities or other military necessities exist in any area, the administration and its director general shall not undertake activities therein without the consent of the military command of that area, and unless subject to such control as the command may find necessary. The determination that such hostilities or military necessities exist in any area shall be made by its military commander.

That is part of the agreement signed by forty-four nations, and hon. members will recognize that that is an essential condition for the operation of relief in an area that is liberated. That provision is supplemented by various resolutions passed at Atlantic City.

Finally, my hon. friend referred to the use of relief supplies for political purposes. Two resolutions prohibiting that were adopted by council. It is the intention of all the nations who are members that it shall be prohibited and, so far as the administration can do it, that will be done.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I should like to know whether the food and other supplies to be advanced to needy nations are to be given to those nations, or only lent to them? For instance, we will suppose that France asks for assistance under UNRRA, and we will say that assistance to the extent of \$50,000,000 is given. Is that given, absolutely, or is it only advanced with the idea that at some time France will pay it back?

Mr. CLAXTON: The relief is to be made available to countries needing it, as they are liberated, and as they come within the terms of the agreement, without regard to their ability to pay. But a resolution adopted at Atlantic City provided that countries which are able to pay for relief will pay for it. France is such a country, as was indicated by their representatives at Atlantic City. She expects to pay in international currency, from resources which she has available outside France, for all the relief she gets. That is true of three other nations. They will pay for the supplies they get. But their requirements will be cleared through the combined boards, after consultation with the administration. So that the administration will look at the overall require-

[Mr. Claxton.]

ments of all the nations requiring relief, and see that they are met proportionately in accordance with the need.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Some nasty rumours have come to my notice, and I shall mention one or two of them. All one has to do is to read some of the current literature, and he finds enough proposals to make a person's hair turn gray. We hear suggestions on what is to be produced, what is not to be produced, where it is to be produced, whether there will be a high or a low tariff, and on what commodities, what the financial policy shall be, and whether there will be a central bank—and so on, and so on. I would like to know this: is it proposed to require that any applicant submit to any such restrictions, or any such agreement? I am very much concerned, because if this thing is being used—and I have heard such a rumour—to bludgeon the needy nations into an agreement to certain pernicious commitments, that is something which should be fully known. And this parliament is in duty bound to see to it that no such condition exists.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, I feel I ought to say a word to my hon. friend in regard to what he has just said. In the first place, I think it would be wise not to attach too much importance to rumours. By stressing rumours certain impressions grow, and in the minds of some people they become convictions. It would indeed be a great misfortune if those countries in Europe, which are suffering the worst possible kinds of torture, should have added to their agony, as coming from the parliament of Canada, even the thought that this or other governments with which they are connected were seeking not to assist them in their distress but were bludgeoning them. I am sure my hon. friend does not attach much importance to those rumours, and I hope he will not lend his position to giving emphasis to them by even assuming for one moment that they could possibly be correct.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think the Prime Minister will agree it would be a great deal more calamitous if nations did unsuspectingly commit themselves to an agreement the full implications and extent of which they did not appreciate, and then found themselves suffering, after it was too late to effect a remedy. In consideration of the fact that so many different kinds of proposals have been put forward in so many different magazines, proposals purporting to be of authentic origin, I say the fullest, frankest and most definite understanding should be had by all members of parliament, and all nations of the world. I do not think there is any doubt that there