

ities have organizations to do in peace time, and can do effectively under war conditions. I am thinking of public health measures, for example, the administration of hospitals, and a variety of things of that sort. We have felt that as a practical approach to meet the problem it was best to get some agreed sharing of responsibility with the provincial authorities in particular, so that we could all get at it as well as possible. I must say that the provincial governments have shared that view and have agreed that there should be a recognized division of responsibility. The Prime Minister has made reference to this matter in the house. I have his various statements here. I think it is fair to say that all the provinces have concurred pretty well in this distribution.

Mr. R. B. CURRY (*Director, Emergency Measures Organization*): Yes, I think you can say that; and in the article which Miss LaMarsh has referred to, when she said that the Saskatchewan government would not participate in the exercises, I think it requires a little explanation. The ministers of the Saskatchewan government did not happen to take part in those exercises, but the public service representatives did do so.

Miss LAMARSH: There was cooperation with the Saskatchewan government?

Mr. CURRY: Yes, through the public service, surely.

Miss LAMARSH: Because this is an area in which there was quite a bit of division of public feeling, with some people feeling that all these emergency measures should have been primarily under the planning of provincial governments, while others have said it was a waste of time and money; and it is conceivable that other levels of government might say: we have had enough and we will not spend any more money. Let us suppose that this period of intensive planning should continue for ten years. Surely all your plans would fall to nothing then, and you could not get the cooperation of the people through their elected representatives.

Mr. BRYCE: These functions, which the federal government will endeavour to carry out, and the allocation of which to the federal authorities has been pretty well agreed upon as between ourselves and the provinces, will be going forward regardless of what view the provincial governments may take. The provincial governments may not make preparations in their own fields, but they would not prevent the army from carrying out their warning functions in a particular province, and they would not prevent our getting a war supplies agency established in such a province. Some fields, for example, the health field and the welfare field, looking after refugees and that sort of thing, would likely be provincial matters. So far we have made no preparations on the federal side to step in where a province has been falling behind or is unwilling or indisposed to take action. We have felt that by and large we were getting a degree of support from the provinces, and that it would be wrong to step in to fill any sort of vacuum. All ten provinces are participating in our financial assistance programs and are doing various things in the field in one degree or another. Certainly some are much ahead of others; but they are working under their own authority, and we have felt it was better to persuade them than to try to substitute for them.

Mr. MATHESON: In listening to Mr. Bryce, it seems to me we have a number of different problems; one is that of providing the legal and perhaps constitutional framework whereby something can be done. Behind that, however, there is the very real problem of having an organization which is able to function in a realistic and practical way, notwithstanding the fact that over a projected period public interest may wane in its realization of the danger of the situation. I wonder if the government could take cognizance of the enormous strategic value to Canada of the St. John Ambulance in this situation. We know that the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and probably nearly every member of parliament, in some way or other, is involved in the