

set-up is that a committee on supplies, of which a Canadian representative is chairman, will be in charge of distribution and of general policy regarding the provision and transport of supplies. We should have the assurance of the minister that Canada's contribution, apart from her currency contribution, shall be, in the main, agricultural products.

I read on now from the point at which I stopped a moment ago:

Freedom from want in this sphere has two aspects. There is the short-run aspect of immediate relief and the long-run aspect of elevating the whole level of nutrition all over the earth. That the principle of mutual aid would be extended by Canada to relief, the short-run aspect, was announced on January 27, 1944. It was the other, the long-run aspect, which the representatives of the united nations assembled to discuss at their first general conference in Hot Springs, Virginia, from May 18 to June 3, 1943.

He goes on to point out that a Canadian was made chairman of an interim committee on food and agriculture and says:

This was an acknowledgment of her leadership—

That is of Canada's leadership.

—in the domain of food relief and nutrition. This clearly exemplifies the new, dynamic role she is getting ready to discharge in the post-war world.

For that reason I again repeat that Canada should be assured that the contribution that we shall make will be, in the main, one of agricultural products, to the end that our farmers will be assured in the post-war period a security of opportunity in world markets for Canadian agricultural products.

During the past year large amounts have been expended in connection with Mutual Aid. According to the last figures that I have seen, approximately \$600 million has been expended for assistance under the Mutual Aid act. I think we should have a statement from the government as to the expenditures that have already been made under Mutual Aid and, in particular, as to the extent to which agricultural production has figured in the distribution that has already been made.

This bill is important as a stepping-stone on the road to peace as an indication of the degree of collaboration that there is between the united and associated nations. I was pleased last night to hear the parliamentary assistant say that in the conference that took place, which resulted in the agreement being signed, where difficulties might very well have arisen as between the great powers and the small powers, a spirit of sincere collaboration characterized the assembled representatives of those nations.

I intend now to refer to some of the sections of the bill with a view to securing information in regard to them. As I read the agreement, in its purport, it sets up a new type of league of nations, designed on a functional basis to assure the rehabilitation of the devastated occupied countries. It sets up a most powerful central committee composed of representatives of China, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The dominating authority is the director general. We hear much to-day, Mr. Speaker, of the necessity for the sovereign nations giving up some of their sovereignty, but this is the first time, to my knowledge, that that has actually been done. It indicates something of the advances toward wider collaboration which have been made among the united nations and those associated with them since the outbreak of war. It indicates something of the sacrifices that they intend and are willing to make in the interests of world collaboration.

I read from article IV of the agreement:

The executive authority of the united nations relief and rehabilitation administration shall be in the director general, who shall be appointed by the council on the nomination by unanimous vote of the central committee. The director general may be removed by the council on recommendation by unanimous vote of the central committee.

Great powers are placed in the hands of this director general. Once he is appointed by unanimous vote of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, he cannot be removed except upon a unanimous vote of the central committee.

It may be noted that the organization as detailed in the agreement is more elaborate, more complicated, and more extensive than that which set up the League of Nations some twenty-five years ago.

Under paragraph (c) of section 2 of article I the purposes and functions of the administration shall be, among other things:

(c) To study, formulate and recommend for individual or joint action by any or all of the member governments measures with respect to such related matters, arising out of its experience in planning and performing the work of relief and rehabilitation, as may be proposed by any of the member governments. Such proposals shall be studied and recommendations formulated if the proposals are supported by a vote of the council, and the recommendations shall be referred to any or all of the member governments for individual or joint action if approved by unanimous vote of the central committee and by vote of the council.

This provision gives wide and, if I may say so, ambiguous powers, and I would ask the parliamentary assistant to explain their nature and intent. To what extent do these powers thereby granted interfere with or