

immediate action was essential. I can see, too, that in certain phases of post-war activities there may be necessity for direct orders in council. But surely they should be brought before the House of Commons, and approved. Only those of an urgent nature should be passed, and even then a full explanation should be given—not just a report.

Surely the government does not fear the people in a matter such as that of providing relief and food for other nations. This democratic principle must be maintained, or we are fighting in vain. The dangers of a continuation of order-in-council government are too great to be ignored, and Canadians will not tolerate its continuance into peace time.

Mr. J. G. DIFENBAKER (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I begin by stating that I know of no legislation to come before parliament which represents a more forward step in international relations than does the setting up of the united nations relief and rehabilitation organization to be ratified under the provisions of this measure. For the first time in all history nations are collaborating with a view to removing the causes of suffering and future wars in all parts of the world. For the first time since the beginning of the war; indeed, for the first time in history do we find the Soviet Union joined with other united nations, as well as with nations associated with the united group, in an effort to assure that when the sacrifices of the war are at an end, and when territories are retrieved, or taken back prior to the actual conclusion of hostilities, the responsibilities for the rehabilitation of peoples occupying distressed countries shall rest upon the signatories to this agreement.

As I see it, this measure represents a pattern of principles which might very well lead to the establishment of universal peace, through collaboration and cooperation. It assures post-war rehabilitation. I repeat it is the first time that the united nations and those associated with them have joined in the dedication of their respective nations to the principle that the welfare of all nations is the responsibility of all others.

I feel that we in this parliament have the opportunity and privilege of participating in implementing the arrangements which were made by the forty-four governments concerned, whereby will be established the first step to the parliament of man, the dream of generations of mankind, whereby international plans will be adopted having as their purpose the attainment of universal peace.

As I listened to the hon. member for St. Mary (Mr. Fauteux), particularly to the eloquent peroration to his speech, my mind

[Mr. Castleden.]

went back to 1937 when, as a member of the Vimy pilgrimage, I sat with others in historic Westminster hall in London and there heard the then Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, expressing his hope that the future of the world would be one of peace, but with the warning that unless peace could be maintained civilization did not deserve to live and would perish.

It is my belief that this legislation represents the greatest step forward made within the last two years, a period of momentous events, and one which all will hope will culminate in a great world organization. There are, however, some matters in connection with the agreement concerning which I should like to have some information. I believe no one could be better qualified to give that information than the parliamentary assistant to the president of the privy council (Mr. Claxton), who was privileged to participate in the conference from which flowed the agreement now under discussion.

As the hon. member for Yorkton (Mr. Castleden) has said, Canada has a great interest in the implementing of the united nations relief and rehabilitation administration. It is set out in the preamble of the agreement that the purpose is that of granting "aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people." In order to assure the type of life these peoples are to have under this agreement, the greatest contribution that can be made will be that of supplying agricultural products. For that reason Canada's interest, in an economic way, is considerable. Under the provisions of the agreement contributions are to be made by the various nations. The United States will make an estimated contribution of from \$1,400,000,000 to \$1,500,000,000; the United Kingdom one of between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000 and Canada one of between \$75,000,000 and \$90,000,000, making a total amount of from two to two and a half billions of dollars available, in the main, for the supplying of food and supplies to peoples in liberated territories.

The situation is well set forth in a booklet, "A Greater Canada among the Nations," by Mr. Lionel Gelber, wherein he says:

When the guns are silenced, the gigantic agricultural resources with which Canada has been blessed will play a decisive part in feeding the hungry multitudes of Europe and Asia. As a matter of fact they should be second in importance only to those of the United States.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we should have the assurance of the government that in so far as Canada's contribution is concerned, the contribution of food products, and not currency, should be one of prime consideration. The