

There is, I submit, no room for misunderstanding there. The member governments are to contribute what their constitutional authorities determine. At the meeting of the council a resolution was passed dealing with the matter of finance, in which the recommendation was expressed that nations in a position to do so should endeavour to contribute one per cent of their national income, estimated by themselves, as at June 30, 1943. If they wished to give more, they could give more; and if they wished, they could give less. But nations like the United States, the United Kingdom and, we hope, Canada, will conform to the one per cent target set forth in the resolution. But the extent of any contribution is left entirely to each nation. There is no possible room for misunderstanding, and I believe there is none among the nations.

Then the hon. member asked if the decision made by the central committee, under section 3 of article III, was binding on the council. The article itself, I should think, made that clear.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: No; binding on the nations until ratified by the council.

Mr. CLAXTON: UNRRA cannot bind any nation. No resolution of the council or of the central committee, and no resolution of any organ of UNRRA can bind any nation. All they can do is to make recommendations. It is an administrative organization, set up to administer funds made available to it by the contributions of the nations concerned. They cannot bind any nation. All they can do is, through the appropriate organ, to make a recommendation; and a number of those recommendations have been made. If the central committee decided, as a matter of policy, to include a new country, let us say, in the scope of relief, and that decision was unsatisfactory to the member governments, it could be reconsidered at the next meeting of council, and reversed by a majority vote.

The hon. member asked a question in connection with the Mutual Aid legislation. This is not a Mutual Aid act, and I would submit that now is not the proper time to ask that question. That can be dealt with properly when the measure on the order paper for Mutual Aid comes up.

As to the number of Canadians who will be trained in the United States to work for the administration, and the other questions asked in that connection, I have already pointed out that UNRRA is to set up an international administration with a genuine international staff. Canada will not make any appointments to UNRRA in any way shape or form, either through the civil service commission, or the Department of National War Services or

any other department. But for purposes of convenience, if there are Canadians who would be interested in serving in work in the field and who have the necessary qualifications as welfare or social workers, they may forward their applications to the Department of External Affairs or to the Department of National War Services, and those applications will receive consideration. I understand that the actual appointments made will, however, be made by UNRRA itself, and the policies that are to be followed by UNRRA in making appointments have been laid down by the council.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: That still does not answer the question as to what the qualifications are that have been laid down, or as to the number of Canadians shortly to take a course of instruction in the United States and the number who may ultimately be expected to be employed under this scheme.

Mr. CLAXTON: The number ultimately expected to be employed under the scheme depends upon the action of the administration at its headquarters in Washington and also upon the development of the services in the field. I have not the slightest idea how many will be employed under the scheme or how many Canadians will be found suitable for employment under it. But I am sure that applications from Canadians will receive consideration.

With regard to the qualifications required, I may tell the committee with all frankness that I only learned about this by long distance to-day. It is being developed exceedingly rapidly, and that information will be made available at the earliest possible date.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I understood the parliamentary assistant to say that the administration will not have power to bind any member of the council by its action. I would ask him how he interprets section 1 of article I, which reads:

The administration shall have power to acquire, hold and convey property, to enter into contracts and undertake obligations, to designate or create agencies and to review the activities of agencies so created, to manage undertakings and in general to perform any legal act appropriate to its objects and purposes.

Mr. CLAXTON: I interpret that in the sense in which the words are used there. The administration in that sense is in exactly the same position as an international corporation which has power to acquire property and make contracts. But it has not the power to bind Canada as a state to a course of action to which our own legislative authority has not agreed by our own constitutional practice. It has not the power to bind any country.