

would like to quote from the declaration of that conference, because I believe it is very important to us here in Canada:

(1) The first task is to complete the winning of the war and to deliver millions of people from tyranny and from hunger. During the period of critical shortage in the aftermath of war, freedom from hunger can be achieved only by urgent and concerted efforts to economize consumption, to increase supplies and distribute them to the best advantage.

(2) Thereafter we must equally concert our efforts to win and maintain freedom from fear and freedom from want. The one cannot be achieved without the other.

(3) There has never been enough food for the health of all people. This is justified neither by ignorance nor by the harshness of nature. Production of food must be greatly expanded; we now have knowledge of the means by which this can be done. It requires imagination and firm will on the part of each government and people to make use of that knowledge.

(4) The first cause of hunger and malnutrition is poverty. It is useless to produce more food unless men and nations provide the markets to absorb it. There must be an expansion of the whole world economy to provide the purchasing power sufficient to maintain an adequate diet for all. With full employment in all countries, enlarged industrial production, the absence of exploitation, an increasing flow of trade within and between countries, an orderly management of domestic and international investment and currencies, and sustained internal and international economic equilibrium, the food which is produced can be made available to all people.

(5) The primary responsibility lies with each nation for seeing that its own people have the food needed for life and health; steps to this end are for national determination. But each nation can fully achieve its goal only if all work together.

(6) We recommend to our respective governments and authorities the study and adoption of the findings and recommendations of this conference and urge the early concerted discussion of the related problems falling outside the scope of this conference.

(7) The first steps toward freedom from want of food must not await the final solution of all other problems. Each advance made in one field will strengthen and quicken advance in all others. Work already begun must be continued. Once the war has been won decisive steps can be taken. We must make ready now.

Later on in this document they go on to show how these objects may be obtained—by a long-term food production policy, by adequate agricultural credit, by the encouragement of the cooperative movements throughout the world, by changes in our land tenure and farm labour conditions, by education and research, by conserving land and water resources and by the development and settlement of land for food production. To carry out this programme it would be necessary to facilitate the exchange of agricultural products between nations. We believe that one of the chief ways in which this can be done is to take the exporting and importing of food products

out of the hands of the speculator, as has been done to a very large extent during the war, and make it a government responsibility. We believe that it is in the interests of both importing and exporting nations to have long term agreements as to prices, quality and quantity of food to be exchanged. No country can get the maximum production of food without stability in the price structure. This has been amply demonstrated in Canada by the increased production during the war when we had stabilized prices.

It is equally to the advantage of exporting and importing nations to know that they are guaranteed a continuous supply of quality goods at a known price. Any return, therefore, after the war to the speculative handling of food should be vigorously opposed by our government. Long-term agreements should be negotiated between exporting and importing countries for periods of not less than five years and should be renegotiated at least one year before termination of the contract. This we believe would greatly assist in obtaining maximum production and continuity of supply. We believe that in the collection, processing and distribution of food within the various nations the cooperative movement should be encouraged. In this connection I do not think I can do better than quote again from the recommendations of the united conference on food and agriculture held at Hot Springs. The following paragraphs appear in the document:

1. Whereas the cooperative movement has been of very great importance in many countries, both to urban and rural populations, especially in agricultural districts where farming is based on small units and in urban areas of low-income families;

2. The proper functioning of cooperative societies may facilitate adjustments of agricultural production and distribution, as members have confidence in the recommendations and guidance of their own cooperative organizations which they know operate in the interests of their members and of society in general;

3. The democratic control and educational programmes, which are features of the cooperative movement, can play a vital part in the training of good democratic citizens, and assist in inducing a sound conception of economic matters;

The united nations conference on food and agriculture recommends:

1. That, in order to make it possible for people to help themselves in lowering costs of production and costs of distribution and marketing:—

(a) all countries study the possibilities of the further establishment of producer and consumer cooperative societies in order to render necessary production, marketing, purchasing, finance, and other services.

In that connection the C.C.F. government of Saskatchewan has been, I believe, the first government in the world to implement this