

*External Affairs*

year for the work of the United Nations and another 10 cents per person for the work of the specialized agencies. That is not good enough. If we can spend \$2 billion on our defence program I think we can spend more than 20 cents per person per year for the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Canadian people are, I think, tremendously concerned about the fact that two-thirds of the people of the world are hungry all the time. We know that we have food and could produce more. We have the know-how, and we should be doing something to bring about a realization of the aims and objectives of the food and agriculture organization.

Speaking on the 10th of February, the minister made reference to the work being done by the specialized agencies. He told us about the amazing results achieved by the common hoe, of the farmer from Arkansas who obtained great results by introducing the hitherto unheard-of common hoe. Apparently 30,000 hoes were sent. Having spent some time at the business end of a hoe, I know that it is an effective weapon, but I think that anyone who can operate a hoe can in a reasonable period of time operate a tractor. I think that most people in this day and age, having had experience fighting weeds both with the tractor and cultivator and the hoe, will prefer to use tractors, discs, one-ways and cultivators to eradicate this enemy, the weed. But it is possible that having a hoe is better than having no hoe, and until we can get our tractors over there it is probably a very good thing to send a few thousand hoes. But I think that we should be spending more than 10 cents per Canadian per year to try to get the productive areas in the world producing food.

Then we have the world health organization. Half the people of the world are sick all the time. If we have the good fortune to choose Canada for our birth place we can hope to live longer. I think the age is going up all the time. According to the last figures I saw it was 64 for males and 69 for women. But in half of Asia you cannot hope to live beyond the age of 30. With half the people in the world unable to read or write they are not going to make very rapid progress in solving the problems of shortage of food and shortage of nurses and doctors.

Therefore I submit that the Secretary of State for External Affairs must get backing from parliament to make additional funds available, and Canadian delegates at the United Nations must be able to give more leadership with a view to tackling the problems of hunger, illiteracy and sickness

[Mr. Nicholson.]

throughout the world. I might add that in preparing my remarks for this evening I got in touch with the minister's office to try to get some up-to-date information as to just what Canada has done in the fields of technical aid, UNESCO, health and agriculture. I was very kindly referred to the Department of Agriculture which is in close touch with FAO in Rome. The man I spoke to in the Department of Agriculture was very co-operative but apparently he had a limited amount of time in which to do a great many jobs.

I had the same experience in the department of health. When I called the branch that is supposed to be responsible for UNESCO I was told that the man who really is in charge is spending his holidays preparing a report that he could not prepare in office hours in order to have something available on the work of UNESCO. All I wanted to find out was who are some of the Canadians who have gone overseas in the fields of agriculture, health and education. The men of the departments were all very apologetic but they were not able to supply the information. They really should have it but they did not. Before a condition of active opposition to the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies develops, I think we should make information available to the Canadian public that will challenge their imagination.

For example, Dr. Harrington of the university of Saskatchewan had an assignment in Egypt for FAO and another one in India. On his return from these places I heard him tell a most fascinating story of these FAO projects in Egypt and India. By doubling the production of rice they are going to make some contribution to relieving a condition where two-thirds of the people are hungry every year. But apparently Dr. Harrington is not known in Ottawa. I think there should be some place in Canada where information could be made available to the Canadian public about work such as Dr. Harrington and Professor Hardy have been doing.

The Minister of Labour (Mr. Gregg) had a very brilliant student in his university, the University of New Brunswick, who had a distinguished record in the air force and went to Ethiopia after graduation. I think it would be interesting to find out what he has done there but I cannot find out where he is living or what he is doing. I am sure this chap, who did such an outstanding job with the air force and at university, will be doing an impressive job in Ethiopia or wherever he is. I suggest that the minister should find the necessary funds to set up the kind of information service we had in Canada during the