

*United Nations Agreement*

the director general subject to simply a majority vote in the retaining of his position. The position is not dissimilar to that occupied by Mr. Hoover following the last war. Those whose minds go back that far will remember that while Mr. Hoover achieved a great reputation in the work he carried out, he was by no means free from criticism in the doing of that job.

It is a difficult job, and its success will depend upon the favour received from those who supply the money. That is not a democratic arrangement. I suppose, as the hon. member for New Westminster has said, that this agreement has already been signed. As one hon. member opposite has already pointed out, it is rather too bad that agreements of this kind are completed and signed before deliberative assemblies, such as this one, have any chance to apply their combined wisdom, and bring out those little points of criticism which might otherwise be missed. It is too bad that we have adopted that method, and that we have followed it for so long. I do not criticize the procedure in this instance only. There is something to be said for the rule in the United States which requires ratification by the senate of any treaty entered into by the United States. So far as the senate of that country is concerned, I do not approve the two-thirds rule; but I do approve the regulation which makes it impossible for the executive to bind the nation by an agreement with outside nations, irrespective of and without reference to the parliamentary institution of the country. It would be well if we changed the rule in Canada.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: This afternoon I asked a number of questions, which the parliamentary assistant has not yet answered. One of my questions had to do with article V, section 1. With regard to that question I asked why it was that there was no equality, in so far as nations signatory to this agreement were concerned. Then, I should like to ask in connection therewith this question: If a decision is made by the central committee, and before ratification by the council, is that decision binding on the signatory members to the agreement? And in the event that a decision has been accepted by the council, is it then mandatory in its effect upon the members signatory to the agreement?

Then I asked a question as to what expenditures had been made, to date, in connection with the Mutual Aid measure, and the distribution among those expenditures with respect to

[Mr. Roebuck.]

the various commodities covered thereby, including agricultural and industrial commodities and the like.

I wish to return, too, to the question I asked last night in regard to appointments and recruitment of staff. At that time I asked what was being done in connection with the recruitment of staff to assist in the administration of the measure, once it becomes law. The answer given last night was that nothing was being done to that end. This evening the parliamentary assistant has pointed out that something has been done, and that a number of Canadians will shortly be trained for purposes of administration at a school to be convened in the United States. He said that appointments to administrative positions would be made on the basis of applications filed with the Department of National War Services. I should like to know under what authority that department is to have anything to do with the passing on of applications to the central authority. I would ask how it came to be named, and whether there is an order in council making provision for applications being considered by that department. To my mind it is a serious matter to find that appointments, so far as Canada is concerned, are not to be made by the civil service commission, but rather by a department of government. We would expect to find that the recommendations would pass through the commission to the central authority, or to Governor Lehman, who is charged with the responsibility of making those appointments. I should also like to ascertain how many Canadians will be sent over to take the course; and, as the scheme develops and becomes more or less all-embracing, has any estimate been made as to the number of Canadians who may be expected to secure employment under the scheme? Is there any information as to the basis of their qualifications, or the basis upon which they will be chosen?

Mr. CLAXTON: The hon. member for Lake Centre first asked a question with respect to section 1 of article V in the agreement, and seemed to indicate that in some way that article laid down some basis of unfairness.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: No; inequality.

Mr. CLAXTON: The article reads:

1. In so far as its appropriate constitutional bodies shall authorize, each member government will contribute to the support of the administration in order to accomplish the purposes of article I, paragraph 2 (a). The amount and character of the contributions of each member government under this provision will be determined from time to time by its appropriate constitutional bodies. All such contributions received by the administration shall be accounted for.