

While what we contribute should not necessarily be determined by what others contribute, nevertheless that is a factor which has to be taken into consideration, even if it is not the over-riding consideration.

In the current year 1954, according to the latest information which we have been able to secure, and it is as of yesterday, 70 countries, partly as the result of an intensive campaign which has been put on in New York, have pledged themselves to contribute to the technical assistance fund. The amount firmly pledged is something over \$24 million.

The hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Thomas) has asked whether we could not do something ourselves to insure that these pledges are converted into payments. We have through our delegation to the United Nations played a very active part in trying to have the pledges increased. In fact in 1952 my colleague the Minister of Northern Development and National Resources (Mr. Lesage) was the chairman of the pledging committee. We also played a most active part in the pledging committee last autumn. We did what we could to get the amount up, and as an earnest of our endeavour in that regard we indicated through our representative to the United Nations, Senator McKeen, that we would increase our amount this year from \$800,000 to \$1,500,000 (U.S.). That is, we would ask parliament to increase the amount provided the support from other contributors warranted such an amount, and provided the total amount pledged was such as to keep the programme at an economically sound level.

We made that offer last autumn, which represented a considerable proportionate increase, and I think it had something to do with the other countries increasing their amounts. At least I hope it had. As a result there has been pledged already this year some \$24 million. It seems clear that the conditions which we have laid down in regard to the increase in our contribution are to be fulfilled, and therefore it will be the intention of the government when that is confirmed to include an amount of \$700,000 in the supplementary estimates to bring our total contribution to this programme up to \$1,500,000.^A

The hon. member for Wetaskiwin asked in his speech whether I could give any information as to the expenditures from this fund behind the iron and bamboo curtains. So far as I know, and I think I have the facts, no United Nations funds contributed to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance have been expended in those countries to which the hon. member referred. Of course they have their own schemes for technical assistance. We do get information, for instance, of Soviet help in the way of technical assistance programmes in China, but that is quite apart from the United Nations programme.

^A It should be noted that the Canadian pledge to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was in United States currency. To help meet Canada's contribution an amount of \$850,000 (Canadian) has been included in the estimates for 1954-55. Thus the maximum amount to be included in the supplementary estimate in order to bring the total Canadian contribution to the maximum amount pledged would be something less than \$650,000 (Canadian), depending on the exchange rate between the Canadian and the United States dollar.