

United Nations. This principle I suggest applies with no less force to the Economic and Social Council in the exercise of its own powers in its own field. I think all my colleagues here will agree that the record of its work thus far shows that the members of the Council have approached its problems fully aware of this provision in the Charter and have considered themselves as trustees in a very real sense for all Members of the United Nations, whether represented on the Council or not.

The work of the Economic and Social Council while vitally important has not been of such a dramatic nature as to draw the full attention of the public and thereby have the benefit of an aroused public opinion. However, as the work of the Council progresses, its importance will more and more come to be recognized and will more and more win such support. It can hope to go forward steadily, for unlike the Security Council its rules of voting are not such that an obdurate minority can nullify any action which the majority may consider necessary and wise. When we examine the activities of the Economic and Social Council, we see a picture of work in progress. Admittedly there have been instances of disappointing and costly, if sometimes inevitable, delay; but happily there has been no suggestion of the frustration or stalemate. While there has as yet been little, in the way of completed achievements, a careful examination of the work in progress reveals developments that may prove profoundly significant in the gradual establishment of a truly successful international organization.

Because much of the Council's work thus far has necessarily been concerned with the preliminary problems of organization, progress has been slower than many hoped or expected. While this organizational period has not even yet been completed, during the past year particularly, real progress in problems of substance has admittedly been made.

The Council, with the assistance of its appropriate commissions and sub-commissions, has begun to seek the solution of many problems which have a direct bearing on the social well-being and economic stability of all nations. The forthcoming conference in Havana, to complete the establishment of an international trade organization, is one example of the important work sponsored by the Council. This specialized agency when established will be a landmark in the development of multilateralism—an achievement worthy of note in a world in which nationalism and the jealous protection of sovereignty and states' rights seem at the moment to be even on the increase, incredible as this may seem in the light of the experience of mankind since the fateful year 1914. Many difficulties certainly lie ahead but these in no way discourage us from hoping that the successful attainment of the important aims embodied in the draft charter of the I.T.O. may be prosecuted with energy and determination.

However, we should never lose sight of the fact that international action if it is to be successful in this field must be upheld by vigorous programs by each nation within its own borders to build up optimum production and by a willingness to accept payment from other nations in goods and services for its own surplus production.

During the past year the Council received and considered for the first time reports from the various functional commissions which it had set up in 1946. Some of these reports are, in the opinion of the Canadian delegation well thought-out and workman-like documents, on the basis