

work of voluntary service organizations will be undertaken by the department with a view to directing their energies into the most useful channels, to preventing the overlapping of functions, and to assisting in the arranging and timing of public appeals.

The department will also undertake the initiation and promotion of voluntary effort in new directions in immediate furtherance of our war effort and to enable Canada to make in the most effective and efficient manner the necessary economic and social adjustments to meet domestic problems arising out of the war.

In organizing voluntary services, the minister will be given power to form national, provincial or local councils, committees or boards, as well as to use existing agencies.

To avoid any break in the continuity of effort and direction, and to permit of the utmost use being made of the same, the records and facilities of the voluntary service registration bureau, which was set up at the beginning of the war to receive and classify all offers of voluntary service, will be made immediately available to the new department.

The war services department will also undertake the important task of co-ordinating the existing public information services of the government. The minister will be empowered as well to originate or employ such further means of informing the public as may from time to time be required in order to obtain, in the furtherance of the national war effort, the utmost aid from the people of Canada.

The importance of this task can hardly be overemphasized. Perhaps the greatest single moral advantage which democracies enjoy over the dictatorships in time of war, as in time of peace, is their reliance upon the spontaneous support of an informed public. Military necessity dictates certain limits upon information, and the substitution of a large measure of compulsion for freedom of action. It does not however demand a total blackout of accurate information, or total compulsion. Those are the very things we are struggling against. The struggle will be successful on the home front only in so far as accurate information is supplied as freely as military circumstances permit. In no better way can the spontaneous desire of the great majority of our people to give their services freely be effectively harnessed to the pressing needs of this time of war.

The three important types of activity which I have mentioned and which will immediately engage the attention of the minister and of the department are illustrative of its work. The functions of the department will, however, by no means, be limited to these activities.