

I asked the minister if he would place on *Hansard* the means by which the department figured out the amount of \$65 allowed to a soldier to refit himself for civilian life, but the minister did not care to do so. I appreciate what the minister said a moment ago that the matter of clothing allowance does not come under his department; yet this question is tied up closely to soldier rehabilitation. I trust that when the bill comes down the minister will be able to tell us that he is at least going to take up this matter and attempt to do something about it. There are other matters having to do with benefits to soldiers which I could take up, but I shall leave them until the bill is before the house.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Mackenzie King thereupon moved for leave to introduce bill No. 83, to establish a Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

UNITED NATIONS

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION— IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 9, 1943

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure for carrying into effect the agreement for the establishment of a united nations relief and rehabilitation administration, signed on the 9th day of November, 1943, and to provide that interim expenditures not exceeding \$10,000,000 for carrying out the said agreement be defrayed out of moneys provided under the War Appropriation (united nations mutual aid) Act, 1943, and that all other expenditures incurred in carrying out the said agreement be defrayed out of moneys to be voted by parliament.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Bradette in the chair.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the bill which will be based upon this resolution is to enable the government of Canada to give effect to the agreement for the establishment of the united nations relief and rehabilitation administration. This agreement, to which the united nations were the signatories, was signed in Washington on November 9, 1943. The text of the agreement appears as a schedule to the bill. On June 18, 1943, I made a statement at some length on the draft agreement for the establishment of a united nations relief and rehabilitation administration. The draft agreement was printed in *Votes and Proceedings* of that day. On January 28 of this year I tabled a copy of the agreement itself, as signed in Washington

on November 9, 1943. This will be found in the treaty of Canada series, 1943, No. 16. It is therefore not necessary to do more at the present than to mention the most important features of the agreement.

I should first of all like to say that a meeting of the council of the united nations relief and rehabilitation administration took place in Atlantic City from November 10, 1943, to December 1, 1943. The head of the Canadian delegation was Mr. L. B. Pearson, minister-counsellor, Canadian embassy at Washington. The alternate was Mr. Brooke Claxton, M.P., member for St. Lawrence-St. George, who is parliamentary assistant to myself as president of the privy council. The other delegates were the Hon. Cyrille Vaillancourt; Mr. George Bouchard, assistant deputy minister of Agriculture; Mr. John Deutsch of the Department of External Affairs; Mr. A. W. Plumptre, financial attaché of Canadian embassy, Washington; Mr. George Patterson of the Department of Agriculture, and Dr. L. B. Pett, of the Department of Pensions and National Health.

The united nations relief and rehabilitation administration has been set up in the expectation that the military victory of the united nations will be followed by a period during which many, if not all, of the countries liberated from the enemy in Europe and in the far east will stand in need of assistance in the form of food, clothing and other basic necessities.

The period in question is distinct from the period prior to military victory during which relief in various forms will have to be administered by the military forces of the united nations as part of the operations of war. The UNRRA will begin its work in each area as soon as it is practicable for it to take over from the military authorities. The form of its activities within the territory of a member government in which that government exercises administrative authority is to be determined after consultation with that government and with its consent.

The main purposes of the united nations relief and rehabilitation administration are:

(a) To plan, coordinate, administer, or arrange for the administration of measures for relief of victims of war in any area under the control of the united nations through the provision of food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities; medical and other essential services.

(b) To formulate and regulate measures for individual or joint action by any or all of the governments for the coordination of purchasing, the use of ships and other procurement activities;