

*United Nations Agreement*

hon. gentleman who hopes to be the member for Prince Albert, in his appraisal of the significance of UNRRA. The world is a contracted one; the world is an interdependent one, and having in mind the tremendous sacrifice of treasure and property, as well as of man-power on the part of this country and of all other nations, we must regard this matter as one of the greatest importance. We are now going to build, I trust, successfully an organization among the nations of the world by which we shall again attempt to minimize the occasion of war. Now is the time to begin, and we have begun it in an auspicious way through the conference that has led to our considering this bill. In discussing this measure, therefore, I do so with the thought that Canada has not shirked its responsibility, first of all, toward the starving peoples of Europe and Asia; and more particularly has she played a leading part in the building up of an international organization without which in the long run we cannot hope to avoid the mischief of war.

Mr. S. H. KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to join for a few moments in the favourable comments that have been made concerning UNRRA. I share in the thrill, if I may put it in that way, that has already been expressed, that in the midst of this war definite steps are being taken to meet the problems of the immediate post-war period. I also share in the thrill that something definite is being accomplished by way of getting together a large number of the nations of the world.

One might say that the endeavour to think in these terms goes back even farther than has been suggested by previous speakers. Some hon. gentlemen may think back farther than I do, but just now I am reminded that it was a significant moment when President Roosevelt coined the phrase "united nations" and suggested that we should think in the terms implied in those two words.

What I rose particularly to say is this. I hope that we in this house will realize the long-term significance of what we have done to meet the emergency of the present war, and what we are now doing to meet the emergency of the immediate post-war period. In connection with both of these situations we have recognized the need of joining together in a united effort. That united effort, so far as the war is concerned, has not been confined to military matters; it has gone into the whole field of things economic and is very well expressed in the mutual aid legislation of the United States and of this country. In these acts we have accepted the principle that every country should contribute what it

[Mr. Martin.]

has to meet the need of the moment. That is the principle upon which we have acted in this conflict, and it is playing a very real part in the victory we are sure to win. Similarly we are now carrying that principle into the immediate post-war period. We are conscious of the importance of providing food and other necessities to people who will be in dire need at that time. The whole idea underlying UNRRA is that the countries which have the goods should supply them and that they should be made available where they are needed. It is quite clear that this is the acceptance of the principle of world economic planning, and it is being accepted to meet an emergency in the immediate post-war period. As I see it, it is unwise to stress the word "emergency" too much. I look back to the thirties and feel that that period was just as much a period of emergency as the one through which we are now passing, except that we did not look at it in that way. Similarly I feel that the period after the immediate post-war period is over will likewise be a time of emergency in the sense that there will be with us a pressing problem, namely building up the kind of world we hope will come out of our present sacrifices. I hope that when that time comes we shall not discard the principles we have accepted and found to work so well in the war and in the immediate post-war period. In other words, one of the reasons why I am pleased with the development of UNRRA and am glad to join in the complimentary remarks that have been made is that I feel we are laying down a principle and establishing a foundation upon which we can build in the distant future after the immediate post-war years are over.

When that day comes it seems to me that we must think in terms of planning the world's production in the light of the productive capacities of the various areas and countries of the world and also in the light of the needs of all the people of the world. If we can carry the principle underlying UNRRA into a creative effort of that kind, future generations will look back and perhaps regard the setting up of this administration as even more significant than we realize at the present time. Therefore, without any hesitation I express my support of the general principle underlying UNRRA and consequently the general principle underlying this bill.

Nevertheless, I regret that the last speaker found it so difficult to understand the objections made by the two previous speakers to the continuance into the post-war period of the order-in-council technique. I hardly need to defend the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker). He can do it fairly well