

Supply—Health and Welfare

We must not forget the work that is being done in maternal and child health, health education, nutrition, sanitary regulations, standardization of biological products, and the very important matter of the interchange of scientific information. I must mention the fact that for technical advisory service \$309,000 additional is required.

The world health assembly has under consideration new responsibilities with regard to atomic energy in relation to medicine and public health. This falls into two main subjects: (1) the general problem of protection against radiation from the public health point of view; and (2) the international aspects of the problems of training medical and public health personnel, and questions relating to atomic energy and the use of radioactive substances.

In the near future it is more or less certain that it will be necessary to analyse and condense the scientific material presented by experts in the field of health in foreign countries on these two questions, whether it be as to the use of radioisotopes for research, diagnosis or treatment, or on the problems of protection. Recent developments in these fields will make it necessary that the peaceful uses of atomic energy must be fully considered as part of the work of the world health organization. While the world health organization may well be proud of the work that has been accomplished to this date, we must not forget the other organizations doing similar work. Although health is the concern of the world health organization, I should also like to mention organizations like the food and agriculture organization, the international labour organization, UNESCO and UNICEF. All these organizations are working in co-operation for a better future for mankind.

On the financial side of the picture the budget of the world health organization is approximately \$10 million, but I would point out that in 1954 assistance was given by this organization to more than 300 health projects. Canada's share of this budget is \$300,000. It may possibly be of interest to know that apart from the fact that Canada was the third nation to sign, there are 44 Canadians, of whom 31 are nurses, working in many parts of the world for the organization. It might also be useful to point out that salary increases cannot be avoided, and the effect of this relatively stabilized budget actually means a reduction of the activities in the field.

The director general presented to the assembly information and cost estimates with respect to additional field project requests from countries amounting to \$2,500,000, which have not been included in the first proposals for the year 1956.

[Mr. Blair.]

Regarding the scale of estimates, the essential points are that the United Nations scale as adjusted to world health organization membership was adopted at the assembly, and the assessments are to be calculated on the basis of active participation of members. The principle that no member should pay a larger per capita share than the largest contributor was also retained. However, due to the fact that these changes would substantially affect the contributions of a number of members, implementation of the decisions is to take place progressively over a four-year period.

Canada regarded the preservation of the per capita contribution principle as a matter of considerable importance, and the Canadian delegation played an effective role in the working party which was established to deal with the whole assessment problem. While on this subject I might mention the excellent work done by our financial adviser, Mr. M. G. Clark of the Department of Finance.

Membership of the organization has grown from the 26 states which ratified the constitution in April, 1948, to 84 countries. I mention again that it is unfortunate that China and nine states in eastern Europe have ceased participation in this work. However, there is no doubt that in the future the organization will continue to grow in keeping with article I of the constitution, which is in these words:

The objective of the world health organization shall be attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.

I feel that this is a matter that should interest every party in the house. It has no place in the political ideas of any party, but represents the united efforts of Canada to take part in a world organization which is doing such great work among the peoples of the world. I am sorry that in the time at my disposal I could not present the larger picture, but I wish to assure members of the house that this money is being well spent and that our contribution is accomplishing much for the welfare of the peoples of the world.

Having completed my account of the world health organization assembly, there are a few matters with which I wish to deal on the administration item of the department. One concerns a question prominently in our minds, the Salk serum for poliomyelitis. In this regard may I say that we in Canada are fortunate. We have seen co-operation and care and a combined effort on the part of the provincial governments and the Department of National Health and Welfare to produce a serum for that dread disease which instils terror in every mother and father.