

*United Nations*

because I had the pleasure of having lunch with a distinguished visitor from one of our sister commonwealth nations, the deputy minister of health for India. I can assure you that he was a man of great charm, culture and high professional training. This certainly brought home to me the wisdom of the minister's remarks.

I listened also to the speech made by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell). For a moment I thought he was going to agree that the government was doing a good job. In fact I believe he almost got around to that point, and his characteristic remark that the government is doing the right thing in the wrong way was not made today. I think we can assume this resolution has the wholehearted support of the majority of the members in this house.

I had the pleasure of attending the United Nations as a member of the economic and social council in June, 1952. At that time the Canadian delegation was headed by the present Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Lesage), who did a very able job in directing the work of that delegation. The present Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair) was also a member of the delegation, attending in his capacity as assistant to the Minister of Finance. He took part in the discussions concerning the financial arrangements of the United Nations. I was greatly impressed with the work of the other delegates representing the Department of External Affairs and the Department of Finance. I think it is safe to say that the expenditures made by Canada for United Nations purposes are carefully scrutinized by the finance department. We will all agree that is as it should be, for no matter how worthy the objective may be we want to know that any money we spend is being wisely spent. I believe that is one of the characteristics of this government, they make sure that any money they appropriate is well spent.

I am one of those who believe that the United Nations is a worth-while organization and is making a real contribution to the peace of the world. In common with the hon. member representing the Social Credit group who spoke earlier, I believe that the most beneficial results of the United Nations work are in the social and welfare field. However, I am sure he would be one of the first to admit that political and military matters are most difficult to deal with. While in many instances it would appear that we are getting nowhere in military and political matters, I believe the United Nations has also made a real contribution in those fields.

I was very much impressed with the work of such specialized agencies as the world health organization, the food organization, the international bank, UNESCO, and so on. In all these agencies technical assistance plays an important part, and we are spending huge sums of money in offering technical assistance to the underdeveloped countries through these agencies.

I should like to bring to the attention of the house, Mr. Speaker, some of the remarks of the Canadian representative at the eighth session of the United Nations general assembly, parts of which were also quoted by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway. I do not believe these quotations were given; if they were, I believe they are worthy of repetition. I quote from the remarks made by our representative on September 28, 1953, at the eighth session of the United Nations:

I do not propose, in this general debate on technical assistance, to make a long speech or to go into time-consuming detail. I simply wish to reaffirm my country's belief in and continued support for the technical assistance programs. The concept of mutual aid and enlightened self-help which is the basis of all these programs—that of the United Nations, the Colombo plan sponsored by several countries of the commonwealth, and the United States bilateral arrangements—is one of the most fruitful and significant developments in international affairs since the second world war. Certainly, none gives to those peoples of the world who are still living in comparative poverty greater assurance that others more fortunate stand ready to co-operate with them in their struggle towards a future free from material want and unnecessary suffering; none gives the underdeveloped countries themselves a better opportunity to help one another by exchange of skills and training; none contributes in a more useful and constructive way to the achievement of the objectives set forth in articles 55 and 56 of the charter.

Then I should like to quote further from the remarks of the same gentleman on October 27, 1953, at the same session of the general assembly, when he said:

Many delegations, in speaking of the contributions which their governments hope to make to the 1954 expanded program, have stressed the benefits which their own countries have derived from technical assistance and their belief that, by the further exchange of technical skills and know-how, extensive and enduring progress can be made towards prosperity and improved standards of living all over the world. The Canadian government shares this belief. Canada has been, and still is, a country which depends greatly upon the export of primary products. But our recent and rapid industrial growth has been based upon technical developments and upon the exploration of improved industrial and agricultural techniques which we have pursued in our own country and which we are ready to share with others.

In accordance with our belief in the fundamental importance of the kind of work which is being done under the expanded program of technical assistance, I am authorized to announce that if, in our view, the support given to the 1954 program by the other contributors warrants such