

in man; it increases and maintains his fears. Some relief is given to the farmers and fishermen, but they have to wait. In 1948 they will be able to level off their income over a period of three years. I suggest that even now some relief should be given to the middle-class man with the fixed salary. It is that group that purchases the largest portion of our manufactured and industrial goods.

The hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Tucker) asked me a moment ago to point out some examples. Let me say that it is difficult to pry information out of this government. On November 14 last the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) tried to find out something about the Canadian information service.

An hon. MEMBER: What a hope!

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: What a hope, and what information we got! It was denied by the government.

Mr. CLAXTON: No information was ever denied.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I do not know what the word "deny" means in my hon. friend's vocabulary; but when it is refused, when there is a vote against giving it to the hon. member for Eglinton, it means denial to me although others may call it a refusal.

Mr. CLAXTON: Surely the hon. member wants to be fair, as the Secretary of State (Mr. Martin) suggested some time ago. The motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Eglinton was a motion for the production of the minutes of the supervisory committee of the Canadian information service. It had nothing whatever to do with expenditures in any way, shape or form. The hon. member for Lake Centre knows that the minutes of boards of that kind are not producible and never have been.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Certainly not by this government. It related to the affairs of a board which had been set up by order in council while parliament was sitting.

Mr. MITCHELL: Nor by any other government.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am not so sure. If my hon. friend knows as much about this as he does about some of the matters in his own department, he does not know very much about it. Then there was the case of Cardoza, of the commodity prices stabilization board, who claimed on November 7 that he was being handcuffed when he endeavoured to take proceedings against certain wrongdoers in this country. I think it was the hon. member

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) who moved to secure the papers in that connection. If it was not a denial of information, parliament was met by a refusal on the ground that it was not in the public interest to give the information.

You say to me, "What can you do, what savings can you effect?" I shall refer to a few just at random, although I have quite a number here but time will not permit my dealing with them all. The first one is national registration. What reason is there for national registration being in existence to-day? It was all right under the OGPU and the fascist secret police in peace time but it was done away with in Great Britain within a few weeks after the war ended. Yet it is being continued in Canada at a cost of \$324,000 and it is employing 232 persons at the present time. You say to me, "What does it matter if national registration is in effect?" I always like to call as a witness any authority that is recognized by the government, and to support what I have just said I should like to refer to a recent editorial in the *Winnipeg Free Press* which stated:

There is nothing in the history of this country to justify registration cards. They are part of the police state and no one in their senses or with a true appreciation of where they lead would recommend them for Canada. Yet Mr. Mitchell does.

There is a dangerous trend in this country. Some aspects of the spy investigation, the registration card, the secret order in council are all part of it. It is easy to say this is nonsense, that Canadian liberty is perfectly safe in the hands of the present government. The record shows it is not safe in the hands of the present government.

What about War Assets Corporation? It has 5,053 employees.

Mr. FRASER: Over 7,000 now.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I got a return only three months ago.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry but I must inform the hon. member that he has spoken for forty minutes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go ahead.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. member the unanimous consent of the house?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I want to thank the house and I shall restrict myself to giving just two examples.

Mr. TUCKER: Let us have the total of the expenditures the hon. gentleman suggests can be reduced.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I gave the first.