

wrong in the general program. Much is made of the few regrettable incidents having to do with thefts which have occurred in camps, having to do with fires which have broken out in camps, and incidents of that nature. These are deplorable; but has anyone tried to hold the presidents of the banks responsible because the Boyd gang broke into and robbed the banks? Has anyone attempted to hold a high official of the Bank of Nova Scotia responsible because there is a report that that bank was successfully defrauded of the sum of \$250,000 recently? These are things that, when they happen, have to be followed up diligently. Those who are guilty of misconduct have to be prosecuted and made to realize that such will not be tolerated. And that has been done.

The hon. gentleman says he has not heard anything about what has been done in connection with the thefts at the Petawawa camp. Well, he has not been reading the newspapers, because I have read about several convictions obtained against those who were guilty of these incidents at Petawawa. And I am under the impression that the prosecutions have been conducted with vigour and to a successful conclusion, and that that will continue to be the case. What is important however is the wrongdoing, when it does occur, should be followed up vigorously, so that those who are guilty of wrongdoing may be prosecuted.

Another matter about which much is being made is that of alleged extravagance in the amount of mobilization stores that have been purchased. They are considerable. I am not going to attempt to defend or even to deal with the individual items mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew). It may very well be that it was, as was recognized, a mistake to order 64,000 serving forks. But that was brought to light; and when it was brought to light immediate action was taken in connection with the matter. I am very sure that had that been one of the things that had come across the minister's desk personally, the requisition for 64,000 serving forks would never have been approved.

Then the hon. member referred to boots. Well, I was concerned about boots. I made inquiries and was informed that it was necessary to have that quantity of boots available for the proper functioning of the commissariat of the army and of the reserve forces. I was shown the amount expended for clothing and stores in the defence department as a part of what was spent since 1949 for the maintenance of personnel in the forces, and I find it is just slightly over 5.2 per cent.

Well, out of curiosity I looked at the statistics issued by the dominion bureau of statistics and by the Bank of Canada, in which were set out the cost of living index and the consumer price index. I find both of those were made up on the assumption, in the case of the cost of living index, that 12 per cent of the expenditures of a family go toward clothing, while in the consumer price index 11 per cent has been taken as ample for clothing. Well, in the instance brought to our attention 5.2 per cent represents the total cost of clothing, and that kind of equipment, purchased for the armed forces.

It runs into large figures, of course. I do not know why over a million neckties were required. It may very well be that that was a mistake. But in 1950, when the Korean incident broke out, there were acute fears of a possible outbreak of war on a wider scale than persists today. The leader of the opposition says that the situation is just as tense, that international tension is just as great today; but he also says there is greater hope than there was before that there will not be a world war. That of course is true. We all remember, however, that at the time of the last world war there was great criticism levelled against the defence department because they did not have the stores required to properly clothe the men as rapidly as they were being enlisted under the conditions of emergency that then arose. It may well be that the officers in the requisitioning departments, having that in mind, did order more than the minister would have sanctioned, had it come to his attention, or that the deputy minister would have sanctioned had it come to his attention.

I think we are all not only happy but fortunate that a newspaper which is not usually oversympathetic toward the government should have found it proper to publish on August 27 this short article to which reference was made by the hon. member for Waterloo North (Mr. Schneider) in his speech on Friday. Under the heading "Of This We Are Free" the *Ottawa Journal* of that date contains the following:

Speaking in New York before 36,000 members of the American Legion, General Eisenhower drew his biggest applause with this:

"Let us bend ourselves to end corruption in public office at every level of government. The United States is no better than its public officials. Pre-occupation with their own profit . . . undermines America's strength."

The writer in the *Journal* then goes on to say:

In a nation, as in an individual, the temper of the Pharisee is a poor thing. Yet, in thankful truth we here in Canada can say that no public man in this country needs to stand on a platform and say