

regard to the requirements and problems of the country, and the matters requiring the special attention of those ministries. I must say I do not think the ministry exceptionally large having regard to the problems with which Canada is faced at the present time.

I mention this because I think the public rather expect my hon. friend, quite as much as myself, to keep before the people of the country what is necessary in the matter of government administration; and unless he is prepared to say that some of these departments are superfluous and to tell us which they are, I do not think he should say we ought to get rid of them. If I misunderstood him; if he said he thought there were certain ministers who should be changed, I differ with him absolutely in that regard. I do not share that view; and, if he can, I should like him to substantiate his statement that any of the ministers might be said to be formally holding office. I know something of the work the ministers are doing, and I want to say that every one of my colleagues is pulling his full weight in the war effort of Canada at the present time. There is not one of them who is not working to the limit of his time and energy, not only in his own department but in assisting those in other departments to carry on their work. If my hon. friend had been in office at any time in the past I think he would weigh his words more carefully when he begins to criticize the burdens that fall upon a ministry, and the number of competent persons who are required to carry on the business of government in Canada, with the problems as they have become.

I wish to take exception to another comment made by my hon. friend this evening, a comment which he has made once or twice previously. I have in mind his references to parliamentary assistants. Either in regard to them, or in regard to the ministers, or in regard to both, the hon. gentleman used words to the effect that it was a matter of furnishing so many jobs.

Mr. GRAYDON: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Those are the words my hon. friend used, "more jobs". If he says he did not say so I shall be most happy to accept his statement at once.

Mr. GRAYDON: My recollection of what I said in that regard is that I referred to the encroachment made by the appointment of parliamentary assistants upon the general rank and file of the government supporters in the house. I shall always be guided by what *Hansard* says, but I cannot recall having made mention of jobs; in fact I am quite certain I did not, and I do not think the Prime Minister would want to quote me as having done so.

Already he has misquoted me or misinterpreted what I said in regard to the first point he brought up, and I want to correct both matters now.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What my hon. friend now states just illustrates what I believe happens on occasions; that is, he speaks without thinking and does not really realize what he has said. This time, fortunately, we shall have *Hansard* to prove it. If my hon. friend will look at *Hansard* to-morrow he will find he made reference to "jobs." I took down the word and put it in quotations when my hon. friend used it, feeling that it was part of my duty to take exception to that term. I hope he will not say that I am trying to misrepresent him, because he will find the record of *Hansard* this evening precisely as I have indicated.

In regard to the parliamentary assistants I want to say that for far too long this country has gone without the additional assistance which a ministry should have in this parliament. Instead of believing that we have too many persons concerned with the administration, especially that part of it which has to find its representation in parliament, I think we have too few, and that we have had too few for a long time. The British government have parliamentary assistants in all their departments. In addition, some departments have financial assistants and assistants to assistants; ministers have also parliamentary secretaries as well as private secretaries. This has been found necessary in the parliament at Westminster because of the increase in business and the necessity that parliament should be given as much information as possible and its affairs conducted as efficiently and as effectively as possible. I am sure that having given that aspect of our procedure in this parliament the trial we have thus far given it, hon. members generally—unless they are thinking in terms of jobs—will readily say that this addition has been of value to the parliament of Canada and should be retained and enlarged. I know the value the parliamentary assistants have been to the ministers. They have not all taken the part in the affairs of this house which would begin to indicate the services they have been rendering; but if opportunity were given for them to speak for themselves, or others to speak for them, I venture to say that hon. members would be surprised at the extent of the assistance they have given since they have been appointed.

I want to add this further thought. The public life of our country is becoming more and more difficult, and will become increasingly difficult as the years go by. I hope that by