

pilloried for twenty-five years by the Liberals, shown such extravagance. Never did the Conservative government thus pledge the whole economic future of the country. The cost of the last war was slightly over one billion dollars. And I still hear the death sentences pronounced against the Borden government by a howling mob, tragic jokers of whom I find here a few survivors and a few disciples worthy of such deceit.

The Borden government had set up in all constituencies of the country exemption boards for essential farm workers. Not a single one was enlisted against his will. To-day, notwithstanding the deferments granted, the farmer is called over and over again to appear before medical revision boards. This is how the money intended for the prosecution of the war is spent, in part, either in gifts to wealthy and powerful nations or in useless appeals by certain classes of men called up by the armed forces and in medical examination fees, or for the maintenance of the most incompetent bureaucracy and the most haughty and ignorant boards of all times. Let the government continue on the rock-strewn path where they have ventured and they soon will have to answer to the people whom they have betrayed.

I said a moment ago that during the last war not a single farmer was enlisted against his will. What has happened under the present government?

As early as the late summer of 1940, all young farmers were required to report to military camps for one month of training. This period was later extended to four months. Heaven knows how many of these youths are still in the army. There are thousands and thousands of them. Let us not compare the present conscription set up to that of the last war. I know something of it since I was conscripted during the previous armed conflict. The Borden government was more sincere and more honest than the present administration. When they enacted conscription, it was not in a disguised and dishonest manner as the government of to-day has done. Our present government have violated all their promises and undertakings. Therefore, although I may be favourable to certain parts of this resolution, I can neither vote for it as a whole, nor for a single cent of the ten million dollar appropriation requested.

Mr. GASPARD FAÛTEUX (St. Mary): Mr. Speaker, on January 6 last, Mr. Eugene Staley, member of the staff of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, made a statement in such eloquent

[Mr. Lacombe.]

and at the same time concise and expressive terms, that I feel I cannot do better than open these remarks by quoting it:

More than five hundred million men, women and children are under the despotic rule of the axis in the occupied areas of Europe, Asia and the islands of the sea. Some are starving; many more are suffering from serious malnutrition. Malnourished people are an easy prey to disease. Supplies of clothing, and soap, both essential not only for comfort but also for the prevention of disease, are seriously depleted in the occupied areas. Millions of people—refugees, prisoners of war, labourers forced to work for the axis war machine, are separated from their homes. Estimates of the number of such "displaced persons" run to twenty million in Europe alone, and to forty million in China.

A little later, at the end of February, Mr. Abraham Feller, general counsel of the same organization, said:

When the guns cease firing in Europe and in Asia, the world will have before it an appalling spectacle of human misery and material devastation. There is little need to paint this spectacle for this audience, to marshal the statistics of horror, or to pile adjective upon adjective in the attempt to describe what is really indescribable. You know full well that the hunted, and the homeless, the refugee, the forced labourer, the men and women in concentration camps, the mothers who witness the gradual starvation of their children, that all these hostages of the enemy must be freed and redeemed.

The reactions of men and women to such statements as these can be divided into three broad general classes: "How awfully sad," "So what?" and "What can be done about it?"

The first group I should be inclined to dismiss once and for all as hopeless. I may be wrong in that, as I may very well be terribly wrong in regard to many other things. Still, feeling as I do about group No. 1, I will set them aside. If anyone else knows what to do about them, I shall be glad.

The second group is perhaps at the present time the biggest, and it is, as I will try to show later, our greatest difficulty and our biggest task to convince those people that this is a matter which intimately concerns them in their business, in their jobs, in their private family life.

The third group may be subdivided into those who ask, "What should they do about it?", those who ask "What should we do about it?", and the perhaps rather limited number who at once begin to wonder, "Is there anything that I can do about it?" In the latter category were the men who put their heads together and burned their last ration of mid-