

peril of attack, can go ahead and establish a ministry of reconstruction, how much more should we in Canada, where invasion is a remote possibility, be able to set up a department. The advantages of having a minister of reconstruction, as against this committee, are that a minister is a concrete, definite thing. He has a department; he is there every day; the problems that come up can be discussed with him and he can deal with them as they arise, instead of waiting, waiting, waiting for the report of a committee. There are enough matters of pressing urgency to justify the establishment of a minister of reconstruction, and that is why I am speaking to-day.

I will mention two matters which I consider to be of immediate and almost imperative urgency. The first is the question of the children of Canada. In England after the blitz they found that the school system as they knew it broke down to a certain extent. Children were evacuated; both parents were working in war industries or in many cases the father was overseas with the army, and they found that the children were not being adequately supervised at home. This became a matter of very pressing emergency. What did they do? In the first place they set up a series of crèches. Then they set up nursery schools where children could be taken at a very early age. There they were housed, fed, kept clean, looked after and supervised for the entire day. They were not allowed to fend for themselves on the streets; they were well looked after. The result of the establishment of these kindergarten schools has been that in England to-day there is actually less child delinquency than there was, and, what is far more important, the health of the children is better than it was before the war. The organized care and supervision of older children also is vital in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. These are problems which face us to-day. We cannot wait. We cannot wait even until the end of the session. I know good work is being done in certain sections. Certain municipalities have these things already, but it should be a nation-wide system. It is essential that in the poorest and most congested sections these schools be established.

I have one other point in mind, and that is the health of the nation. Many medical doctors have been called into the armed services, with the result that members of the medical profession who remain in Canada are tremendously overworked. Particularly is this so in districts in which we have large war industries. Doctors are working fifteen or sixteen hours a day, trying to cope with the increased number of patients. Not only do

we find that there are fewer doctors to go round, but the doctors left have infinitely more to do.

I suggest that we must face the possibility of epidemics. Perhaps I might just mention the influenza epidemic of the last war. Nearly all epidemics can be checked before they get properly started, if wise prophylaxis is employed. I suggest that the war workers in large war industries be given an opportunity to have a complete check-up every three months, so that the health chart of the nation can be known precisely, and so that there may be no tendency toward growth of tuberculosis in congested areas. In a similar fashion the growth of other epidemics could be checked before they were too far advanced. In England I believe such a check-up is compulsory, but in Canada it might be done on a voluntary basis. I suggest to the minister that the two things I have mentioned be undertaken now. Few people doubt the necessity for them. Let us undertake them now, before we find ourselves with a problem on our hands.

We have one problem already, namely that of the children. Let us see to it that we do not have to face epidemics. We can solve the problem with respect to the children—at least the English have solved it, and they have also solved the problem of epidemics. Let us see to it that we meet and overcome both these dangers.

I am glad to be a member of the committee. Service on committees of this sort is one of our greatest and proudest duties. We know that the individual human being is the most important thing in our civilization. That is where we differ from all other types of government. This is the committee which will set out to look after the interests of that individual. No other work can possibly be as important.

Mr. NORMAN JAKES (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, it is a long time since I last addressed the house, and on this occasion I do not intend to make a speech. I shall try rather to make only a few random remarks.

First of all I should like to pay humble tribute to all those who have made and are making their contribution to Canada's great and splendid war effort—the armed forces, the merchant marine, their wives, mothers and sweethearts, the fishermen, the war workers in industry, and, last but not least, the farmers of Canada, to whose natural hazards have been added the handicaps of shortages of labour and materials. Theirs was a voluntary effort. With