

war affairs. The government's responsibility lies in appointing men whom it can trust and giving them the authority to carry out their duties with as little interference as possible. If the government were to be continually interfering in the day-to-day administration, it would be impossible to secure men who would be prepared to serve.

I am not trying to excuse the faults that I know exist in human nature. It is impossible to get any organization of men and not find among the number some who will be arrogant, some who will be carried away with an exaggerated sense of their own importance, some who will do most absurd, ridiculous and arbitrary things. As these men are discovered I agree they should be let out of the administration, one by one, as rapidly as may be possible. But looking over the men who to-day are giving their services to this country as experts assisting the government in the administration of our war effort, I do say that it would be very difficult to find in any country a body of men rendering finer service.

The word "bureaucracy" is one that catches the public fancy; it is a word used very freely. But let me ask about the present position. A bureaucracy is usually understood as being a body of public servants who are permanently secure in their positions and therefore able to take an autocratic attitude. Are the men who are administering the war effort of this country confined to the civil service of Canada? As far as the civil service of the country is concerned, I am afraid that it has had far too few additions to its numbers during the course of the war. For the most part the civil servants have simply had to work harder and to work longer hours; and a more devoted body of men than there is in the civil service, particularly among those at the heads of departments, I say cannot be found in any public service. But the men who make up the larger number assisting the government in the war effort are men holding only temporary positions. They are not men who have come into the service of the government of this country, to remain there indefinitely. They are there for the period of the war, or for such time during that period as they may be prepared and free to give to the public service. They cannot be described as a bureaucracy in any true sense of that word.

But is there not another explanation behind everything else? Is not the fault that is being found with those administering the war effort of Canada to-day primarily an objection to the restrictions being placed upon people at this time, the controls which necessarily must be exercised over the public at large in time of

war? That is something which cannot possibly be escaped. We in this country have been freer, I suppose, than the people of almost any other country. We have had less in the way of control and more in the way of freedom of enterprise and of individual freedom. But in a time such as this, when a country is engaged in total war, that freedom necessarily must be restricted, and greatly restricted; and it is these restrictions that are causing the irritation.

My hon. friend has been referring to the duties and responsibilities of members of this house. I think there is an obligation upon every member of this house to help interpret that aspect of our war effort to the people of this country, instead of making it more difficult for the government or these administrators in the discharge of their public duties. We have a right to ask that this aspect of the question shall be present at all times in the minds of all in our discussions here.

Just in case I should fail to recall it later on, I should like to say a word at this point about the discussions in parliament during this session, and I do so after having reflected very carefully upon what I consider is likely to be the tendency in the course of this year's discussions. During the recent past we as a government have been told that we must not have anything whatever to do with politics; that this is a time of war and that, therefore, there must be no domestic politics discussed. Recently we had a convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, led by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell), at which a political programme was brought forward. We have just had the convention at which my hon. friend opposite (Mr. Graydon) was present and which he helped to arrange, and a political platform was drawn up by that party. I do not know whether there have been conventions of some other parties recently formed; but, at any rate, we now have several parties in this house, each having a political platform of its own. There is a general impression in the minds of a good many that this probably will be the last session of this parliament, and consequently that they had better begin to educate the public with respect to the various contributions they hope to make to the public welfare. I suppose that may be an inevitable tendency; but, having regard to the position of the world to-day; having regard to the very critical stage which the war has reached, may I express the hope that we shall not fall into the error of devoting too much time to discussing the merits of respective political platforms instead of keeping our thoughts centred, above everything