

time goods, the public development of Canada's oil and mineral resources, the promotion of scientific research, and artistic and cultural work throughout Canada.

The fact that the official opposition was unable to support that amendment indicates pretty conclusively that they really did not believe in an alternative to the methods now being presented by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. GRAYDON: You had only one speaker who rose and supported it.

Mr. NICHOLSON: The official opposition did not give us any support; to a man they voted against it.

Mr. COLDWELL: We said all that was necessary to say.

Mr. GRAYDON: You spoke, and of course that answered it all.

Mr. NICHOLSON: It was pretty clear that the so-called Progressive Conservative party is really as Tory as ever with the Meighens and the people of King and Bay streets, Toronto, controlling the policy of this newly named political party. When one considers the very large government appropriations in times like these; when one considers that this year the federal government will spend over four billion dollars in directing Canadian production, he must realize that if this country is not going to guarantee an expenditure of at least two and a half million dollars for the first two years after the war is over, then Canada will slide into the worst depression we have ever known in our history.

Some time ago one Progressive Conservative suggested that the synthetic rubber plant at Sarnia should be left to free enterprise. While there are several large companies interested in the management of this plant, there was no private enterprise prepared to expend \$48,000,000 to experiment in producing a substitute for natural rubber. The people of this country collectively supplied that money. Now that it has been demonstrated that a product which compares favourably with natural rubber can be made in large quantities, a product that promises to be an important factor in Canadian economy when the war is over, we see what must be the policy of this government when the war is over.

Is the government to hand this industry over to free enterprise? Are we to have one synthetic rubber plant or are we to have five or ten? Are ten times \$48,000,000 or ten times the amount of material and labour used in the construction of this plant to be expended in the building of unnecessary enterprises? I submit that unless the administration of this country is prepared after the war to continue the

spending of large sums of money, then Canada will not be able to provide full employment for those in the armed services and those now working in war industry.

I think the minister has overlooked the importance of popularizing some of the work done under his direction. While some years ago he boasted of his faith in free enterprise, he found that it was imperative to have control of foreign exchange, to set up the wartime prices and trade board, to have rationing and priorities. As I say, I think it is unfortunate that more publicity has not been given to the important functions carried on by these branches under the Minister of Finance and the part they have played in our national economy. Instead of allowing those who have been cramped by these regulations to count the days until the war is over, until they will be free from these controls, until prices will rise without any restrictions, until the sky will be the limit in the making of profits, we should be giving the public the details of what has been done. The minister should endeavour to bring the public with him in supporting these controls, not only in war time but after the war is over, because the danger of inflation will not disappear with the firing of the last gun and the signing of the peace treaty.

I wish to use most of my time to-night to discuss a subject which I think will be a very important one in the post-war period, a subject which unfortunately has not received the attention it should have received in parliament. Since the war started very few members have taken the time to discuss the place that housing plays in the life of Canada. I should like to congratulate the government—the members of this group do congratulate the administration from time to time—upon the excellent report on housing and community planning which was tabled on March 24 and which has recently been printed.

In January, 1943, the administration set up a sub-committee on housing and community planning as part of the advisory committee's work on reconstruction. Professor C. A. Curtis, professor of economics of Queen's university was chairman, and E. R. Arthur, professor of architecture, university of Toronto, was a member. Mr. J. S. Galbraith; Mr. F. W. Nicolls, director of housing, Department of Finance, Ottawa; Mr. J. M. Piggot of War-time Housing Limited and a number of others were also members. Doctor Marsh acted as research adviser and Doctor Firestone also did valuable research work, as did Mr. Greenway of the dominion bureau of statistics. Never before in Canada have we had such a comprehensive study of housing legislation in the