

were to lose this struggle. In the kindest possible way I would say to the minister that the budget this year is weak, that compared with the budget of last year it is very weak. To my mind the measures which have been taken will not do very much toward stopping or even slowing down the carnival living and the spendthrift tendencies of many of our people who now have aggregate incomes in their homes much greater than they ever experienced before. In this budget there is not enough drastic legislation to make such people stop and realize their responsibilities.

The minister went on to say that the current fiscal year had brought to fruition all our major production programmes. Surely that is not so; surely all our major production programmes have not yet reached full fruition. If they have, I say at once that we are culpable in that we did not set our programmes sufficiently high to ensure an all-out war effort. We have not reached our full capacity; industry, invention, and science have not reached their limits; and in addition we have a power being used to-day to a greater extent than ever before in our history. I refer to the use of woman-power in all vocations. The women of Canada are just beginning to realize what they are able to do, and the full momentum of their energy and effort in all lines of endeavour is still not realized. As we go on we shall find that by the use of woman-power we may achieve results of which we have never dreamed. The same applies to the youth of our country. Before the war it was not quite the thing for high-school students to work in the mills, the factories, or even on the farms. Ten years ago it was not quite fashionable for teen-age girls to work in market gardens or to act as farmerettes; it was not done. It is now being done. The whole high-school population of Canada is available; and the job of harnessing the power of our teen-age youth has not been carried out to anything like one hundred per cent. There is great opportunity to use that power to increase our production programmes in all directions. Therefore, when the minister said, in making his economic and financial review, that all our major production programmes were coming to fruition, and that as we approached our full capacity the over-all increase in production became less marked than was the situation last year. I say we have not yet approached full capacity. I believe we have the capability to reach even greater heights. In my opinion our people ought to be encouraged to believe that this can happen.

Then we come to the shifts in production from non-essential to essential industry, which have been mentioned quite often. We have

not made real shifts from non-essential to essential industry. We have made, on account of a shortage of certain raw materials or for other reasons, some changes which have been obvious; for instance, we have, by order in council, stopped the production of certain lines of goods, and so on. But have we taken Canada as a whole and said, this non-essential industry must be stopped and that essential industry must be continued. We do not need to police industry or to be a Hitler to do that, because our people are anxious to do the right thing. They want to do what is right, and they want some suggestions, some leadership from those of us who are charged with responsibility, so that they may know what is to be done. Believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada have an idea that you and I and others in this House of Commons know something about the affairs of Canada. They have an idea that we know something about the seriousness of the present war situation. When an order is issued by this government that order is looked upon with respect, and the people are anxious to carry out the will and intent behind it. Consequently I say that without acting as Hitler would act we should give instructions to our people that we desire them to produce this and not to produce that; that we shall give them some direction, and I believe we shall be able to increase all our major production programmes.

I am still of opinion that there is room for even greater support to the men and women in the armed forces, at home, at sea and abroad. This budget does not contain very much in the way of a suggestion emphasizing our determination to support our men and women to the very limit of our resources, in every activity making for an all-out war effort.

Any economic review that we find in the budget is so far removed from the days of Fielding, White, Dunning, or Bennett that we really find ourselves in another era. I hope my criticism of this budget will be constructive; I approach it in that spirit, to see if we can bring some human element into the equation. I approach it from the point of view of the activities of individual Canadian citizens; yet in the final analysis it makes up to what will take place by reason of policies of finance and production. Even though this is not a budget of the Fielding type, at the same time I am of opinion that the Canadian people will have to come back to fundamental principles of thrift and provident living which made it possible for us to achieve the progress made in earlier times.

The movement from production of consumer goods to production of implements of destruc-