

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Surely the minister is in a position to give an estimate of the amount which he anticipates will be expended in the several provinces.

Mr. McLARTY: No. I regret, Mr. Chairman, I cannot give that to the hon. member to-day. But, as far as a blank cheque is concerned, not a cent will be spent which is not passed by this house, save and except under the Youth Training Act, which is a statutory amount.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: In order to arrive at the amounts set out in the estimates the minister must have had in mind the several sums which it is anticipated will be expended in the several provinces. Otherwise the amounts and the anticipated reductions would not be provided for in the estimates placed before the house.

Mr. HLYNKA: In my opinion, what the group in this corner of the house is asking for may be boiled down to the three fundamental things of life—food, clothing and shelter. For the past three days we have been engaged in discussing what is probably the most important bill of the present session, that relating to conscription. The agricultural assistance bill, it seems to me, is at least next in importance. Considering the plight of our farmers in western Canada, we sometimes wonder whether this government realizes its obligations towards these people. It seems to me that, for some reason or other, this government has a grudge against the people, at least those of western Canada, and that it is trying to revenge itself upon the farmers of the west. Every hon. member will admit, I am sure, that during the past ten years our western farmers and workers have had no assurance that they would get three meals a day, along with clothing and shelter. When these three fundamentals of life are denied to our humblest and poorest, it is about time for this government to shake off its sleepy mood and proceed to give assistance to our people.

Last September, when the leader of this group, the hon. member for Lethbridge, came home from the session, his little boy asked him a question.

Mr. MacNICOL: Not about finance, I hope?

Mr. HLYNKA: He said, "Daddy, do you think that you will keep up with this line of work?" My leader replied, "Why not?" "Well," said the boy, "it surprises me, Dad, that according to the press you are always wrong and the Prime Minister is always right. How is it? Is the Prime Minister such a

brilliant man, much more so than you are?" The leader of the New Democracy group answered his little son in this way: "Well, son, some people may think to-day that the Prime Minister is right, but there will come a time when the people will realize that we are right and have been right all along. And I am sure that that time is not far off."

As a new member, I have been astonished at the readiness with which government supporters, when the views of our group were propounded, have taken offence or tried to distort anything we have suggested. The government at this time should be only too glad to receive suggestions from every corner of the house. I do not see any special evidence of wisdom in any one particular section of the house and therefore I suggest that we should try, at this critical moment, to work together as one family for the purpose of solving our problems. Our people are entitled to food, clothing and shelter. The two old-line parties have denied the Canadian people these three fundamental necessities of life in the last ten years. We must have these things to begin with if we are to exist at all. Napoleon on one occasion said that an army travels on its stomach. I say that a nation exists and fights on its stomach, and you cannot expect the Canadian people to carry on unless they are given adequate care, unless they have the assurance that conditions will make it possible for them at least to exist, to say nothing of getting a real living.

I disagree with some members in our group on one point. Many of them have stated on the floor of this house that the present government gives no privileges to the under dog, no privileges to western farmers and workers in the economic sense. I disagree with that, because our farmers and workers enjoy one privilege, a privilege which is exclusively theirs, or almost exclusively—the privilege of paying taxes. They are never asked to express their opinion as to whether they can bear the burden of taxation that is being piled up on their shoulders. Now, at this critical time, when our farmers in the west need assistance as never before, what do we find? This government invests \$750,000, three-quarters of a million, in a building in this city, the Jackson building, to be used for war purposes. Should the government do this, if it is sincere, as I hope it is? Should it invest three-quarters of a million dollars in a building of this sort—a dead investment—at a time when we need this money for our people and to further our war effort? After passing the important bill that was put through yesterday, the government could take possession of that building without paying three-quarters of a million dollars. They