

The Budget—Mr. Rose

Mr. FRED ROSE (Cartier): In discussing the budget which according to the speech of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley), calls for an expenditure of over \$5,000,000,000 in this the most decisive stage of the war, I am not going to delve into figures. I am not even going to spend very much time on the problem of the justice or the injustice of certain taxes. I wish to deal instead with the problem of national unity.

To me the destruction of fascism does not merely mean the destruction of fascism overseas. I believe that our men fighting overseas feel that while risking their lives there they would not want to come back home where they would find groups of fascists threatening Canadian democracy. I am not an alarmist, but I believe that at all times it is better to face issues than to resort to the ostrich policy.

In 1938, a few years before the name of Quisling became generally known throughout the world, I wrote a little pamphlet in which I warned about the danger of small fascist groupings, a danger that I said must be met or it might become serious in a critical period. In the pamphlet I used the following words:

There is no doubt that at present the various fascist movements constitute a very small minority among the great political movements in our country. But this is no reason why fascism in Canada should be ignored. Far better to turn the spotlight of truth and reason upon it right now and to take those measures at the outset of its growth, to make it impossible for fascism ever to grow into a force strong enough to challenge Canadian democracy.

There are certain people who believe that just because the foundations of fascism are being destroyed overseas, people with fascist ideology here will give up, cave in. I do not share that opinion. I would say that just because the cause of fascism is failing, because it is being defeated on various European battlefronts, fascist groups here, like nazism, will fight like a wounded beast. What makes this dangerous is the fact that we are in a decisive stage of the war. What makes this dangerous is that it divides the people, that it raises doubts in the minds of many people, that it weakens morale. That is why the issue must be faced.

What does Hitler want? He wants to see division. He may even fight a war of defence on all fronts. He hopes the war will drag out as long as possible, while his supporters throughout the various countries of the united nations will work up a campaign of disunity. This, he hopes, may bring about a patched-up peace. That sort of peace would not last. That is not what the people of Canada or of the united nations want.

[Mr. Bruce.]

Not long ago the United States Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau Junior, gave the following warning:

Our enemy has one real secret weapon, the weapon of division. As disaster confronts him he will use that weapon cunningly. He will try to shatter unity we have achieved, will try to blunt and confuse our purposes and soften the defeat which he now knows he cannot escape. He will try to make our victory partial, rather than complete.

If we yield to such blandishments, if we allow doubt of one another to divide us, if we soften in our resolve to stamp out this hideous nazi curse—we shall have lost this war. Worse we shall have betrayed all those who suffered and bled upon the soil of Europe—the living and the dead alike.

I fully agree with that statement, and that is why I emphasize this problem of national and international unity, and wish to warn the people against division and confusion.

We shall have betrayed the living and the dead alike, if we stand aside and minimize the events which have taken place in Quebec in the past few weeks. There is, of course, the possibility that someone may try to say, "He is attacking the province of Quebec." I am not. I say that I have much more faith in the people of Quebec than many who would use that argument against me. I have said in the past, and I repeat to-night, that small dangerous cliques are carrying on that type of activity which is hurting the people of Quebec and Canadian morale.

I was coming down through the Laurentians in a car, and picked up a young airman who happened to be travelling on foot. He was an air gunner; in fact he looked more like an air cadet, because he was so young. This boy had been stationed at Valleyfield when the fights took place. I had tears in my eyes after listening to his story. He said that these young boys, young air gunners, boys doing the most dangerous type of work, and who would be going overseas in a few weeks, did not dare to walk alone. They had to go in threes or fours.

Was anyone arrested? I have not heard of a single arrest. The young airman told me that many air force boys were beaten up very badly. In that same town of Valleyfield another gang attacked a meeting of the textile workers' union. That gang entered the hall where the meeting was being held, and smashed all the furniture. That was a union of people of Valleyfield. And still nothing was done; no arrests were made.

Then, in the city of Quebec a synagogue was set afire a couple of months ago. Prior to that fire a campaign was carried on by an intolerant clique within that city, against the rights of Jewish people to build their syna-