

Minister of Finance a free rein in loosening our purse-strings in order to support air research to the very limit. Perhaps I should say that here I am speaking as the member for Danforth, and it is the privilege of any of my colleagues to disagree with me, but I believe we should support to the limit the research work that is so necessary in this field. That is so for the simple reason that our greatest hope of meeting the submarine menace rests with those boys who fly up and down our coast, searching for submarines.

This brings me to the question of merchant shipping. I believe the submarine is the greatest menace to be faced in this war by Canada and the United States. The production of millions of tons of shipping is not enough; more and more attention must be given to saving our shipping from loss by submarine action, for it is not only the loss of the vessels themselves that is important; it is also the loss of the strategic war materials they carry. I wonder if perhaps I have said too much, but I do not think those remarks require censoring, for I think they are common knowledge. I am quite in agreement with the censoring of any information considered important by the censorship branch; it is necessary that zippers be placed on the lips of all employees and servants of the state. But we must keep our people informed as fully as possible if we are to hold their confidence and if they are to face up to the huge expenditures, the energy and the effort that are necessary, and we must make them realize the gravity of the situation.

Let me pause here for a moment to say that in my opinion we should more frequently make available the facilities of this house to the various ministers of the crown, to permit them to make statements which will keep Canadians informed of the progress of events, instead of having to get their information through the press. I believe more official statements pointing out the dangers and difficulties, the need for greater production here and there, and that sort of thing, would keep our people informed and enable us to retain their confidence. On February 25 of this year we had an example of this sort of thing when the British war secretary, Sir James Grigg, made a statement in regard to the movement of supplies. Why should we not have a statement like that from one of the ministers of this government? We have not heard at all this session from some of the ministers, and that does not inspire confidence. You do not tell us what you are doing, and we do not like it. The old adage, "Get them young, treat them rough and tell them nothing," is not good enough. We want to know, and Canada wants to know.

[Mr. J. H. Harris.]

The British house was told that in 1942 a million tons of supplies, five hundred thousand men, fifty thousand tanks, guns, armoured vehicles and all the rest of it, had been sent around the Cape of Good Hope to various destinations. That must have inspired confidence; it must have built up the morale of the British people. They were also told about the landings in north Africa; that Britain moved 185,000 men, 20,000 vehicles and 220,000 tons of stores in three weeks, requiring 440 special troop trains, 680 freight trains totalling 15,000 cars, and so on. I offer this suggestion in order that we might impress upon the Canadian people the magnitude of the problem we are facing in this war, and also that it might be impressed upon the members of this house and those charged with the responsibility of looking after our transportation system. I mention it in the hope also that the way may be paved for the application of some restrictions by the transport controllers to eliminate non-essential travel and the shipment of non-essential freight.

I come now to the matter of government accounts and finances. I am of opinion that with all our war expenditures Canada can maintain a sound financial position, but it will be necessary for our people to observe a few cardinal principles which I enunciated in the early part of my remarks and which I shall enunciate again in few moments. For the moment let me say that I believe those charged with the responsibility of raising funds for various purposes should give a clear right of way to our victory loans. I believe we are a little late with our first loan for this year, and in a moment I shall give my reasons for that statement. We should encourage the purchase of more and more war savings certificates, and their regular purchase week by week and month by month. It was disappointing to hon. members to learn that subscriptions to war savings certificates, which we had hoped would run well over \$100,000,000 a year, have fallen to something like \$77,000,000 this year. Red Cross drives should be spaced in such a way as not to interfere with victory loan drives. Campaigns that grip the imagination and the heart of our people, such as the funds for British war victims, Russian war victims, the Queen Mary fund and so on, should be encouraged because they keep our war interest to the forefront and maintain morale among our people.

Of course we must continue our present economy and support the churches, educational institutions and hospitals. Large sums of money are collected under our present