

Thus, I repeat, understandings which may profoundly affect the world position of our own country ought to receive the fullest consideration by this parliament. We are of the opinion, too, that every phase of our war effort should receive the most careful scrutiny by this house. Recently Major-General Crerar, from whose speech before the Ottawa Canadian Club some quotations were made by the leader of the opposition this afternoon, has been giving addresses across Canada. In them he has been emphasizing our need to intensify our efforts toward the complete provision of armaments for our men in uniform. We of this group believed a year ago that Canada's most effective contribution in this war ought to be made in the national organization of industry for the supplying of economic aid without profit to ourselves. We still believe this to be the major contribution that we can make. So far public attention has been focussed upon the raising of men. Our mobilization act so far has been used only to register the adult population, and to call out certain classes of young men. In our opinion the act should have been used first to mobilize industry for an efficient war effort.

Apart from every other consideration I submit we have no right to ask men to surrender themselves for the common cause unless and until we ask industry and our financial institutions to place themselves on the same basis at the disposal of the country in her hour of need. And this has not yet been done. On the contrary large sums of money are being spent by the governments on the enlargement of privately owned plants and upon the erection of new plants which are to be owned by the governments but operated by certain private corporations.

I would remind the house that reliance on private enterprise nearly lost the war of 1914-18, and private enterprise, according to the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe), blocked the making of certain war supplies in Canada during the first eight months of the present war. It was not until a new government in Britain revolutionized the control of her war effort that the picture began to change. Yet in Canada, under the policies favoured by the Department of Munitions and Supply, this country is being delivered more completely into the hands of those who already monopolize our economic life.

Indeed, I will go a step farther and say that it would appear that government-owned institutions are being sacrificed in the interests of private corporations. Allow me to illustrate:

Last week I was in a large western city near which a new war industry is being

established. The Canadian National railway and the Canadian Pacific railway run almost parallel into this city. The site for the plant was selected just half a mile from the large mains supplying the city with water and on the main electric power line. The site was level, without buildings and in every way suitable. The Canadian National Railways could run their spurs quite easily into the plant, but the Canadian Pacific Railway could not. A short time ago the site was changed to the other side of the Canadian National Railways' track, in order that the Canadian Pacific Railway might serve it. The change necessitates, among other things, the building of a water main four and one-half miles long, instead of the half mile required before at a cost of approximately \$60,000 a mile.

Mr. TURGEON: What city was that?

Mr. COLDWELL: I believe I may say that it was the city of Winnipeg. This is not hearsay. I was taken out to see the sites by the responsible city head, so that I might be quite fully and reliably informed.

Mr. HOWE: The hon. member's information is not complete, however.

Mr. COLDWELL: That is the information as it was given to me by the mayor of the city.

No doubt other members of this house can give, and I hope will give, examples of how powerful oil companies, gas and power companies, chemical concerns, milling interests and aeroplane corporations are being encouraged to dig in now, so that when the war ends Canada will be thoroughly controlled by monopolistic finance and industry. I say that it is the duty of this parliament to change the trends and to relieve those who are responsible for the situation from any further control of our war effort. Otherwise the Canadian people will have lost the war on the home front.

Some industries, too, are pursuing labour policies which must ultimately bring them into conflict with their employees. Up to the present time, unemployment has enabled employers to prevent attempts at organization. Men who wished to organize in the unions of their choice have been dismissed. But the intensification of our war effort and the growing realization that this is a war not of men but of machines, will create a labour shortage. Then these employers will face a new situation and will demand legislation to control labour. Indeed, one order in council, P.C. 6286, tabled last Thursday can be used to prevent workers from trying to better their working conditions. Apparently this order in council has some teeth in it in