

of a war-time expenditure concerning which a warning was given in the house. I refer to the building of *Cornwallis* in Nova Scotia. It was pointed out that it was unnecessary; but it was proceeded with, and at a cost of \$9 million. It was completed on November 30, 1944. What happened to it? We in the opposition accepted tremendous expenditures without criticism during the war, because of our desire to assist the government rather than to hold it back in its aim and purpose to mobilize Canada for war.

But we warned about that expenditure. What has happened to *Cornwallis*? With the exception of a few buildings which have been turned over to the Department of Veterans Affairs, it has been closed down—a total loss to the country. The budget is convincing evidence of the fact that so long as the present government is in power over-expenditure, reckless expenditure and profligate expenditure will continue uncontrolled, because there seems to be no power to control those who are in charge of expenditures.

Mr. ABBOTT: Rubbish.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am going to refer to two or three matters of expenditure that could be done away with.

Mr. ABBOTT: Good.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: If the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Abbott) has any questions to ask, I shall answer them; but I cannot answer muttered monosyllables.

Mr. ABBOTT: I just said, "Good".

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am glad I have your approval.

Mr. ABBOTT: I was not speaking in monosyllables at all.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am glad to know that, because the minister is a member of the cabinet.

Mr. TUCKER: Before you go along, what do those savings total?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: After all, the parliamentary assistant should be able to wait just a minute. He is not a member of the cabinet, and I am dealing with the cabinet at the present time.

Mr. TUCKER: You should not object to answering a question like that.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: It is perfectly all right.

Mr. ABBOTT: Red herring.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: "Red herring," says the Minister of National Defence. Let me give him the philosophy of this government. It is contained in the answer of the then Minister of Munitions and Supply during the period of the war, on November 19, 1945.

The hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) had pointed out that a million dollars might be saved out of \$7 million in administration. What was the answer given by the Minister of Reconstruction? A chance remark?—no, a remark that reveals the philosophy of this government when, at page 2251 of *Hansard* he used these words:

I dare say my hon. friend could cut a million dollars from this amount; but a million dollars from the war appropriation bill would not be a very important matter.

That is the philosophy; that is the psychology.

Only the other day my good friend the Secretary of State (Mr. Martin), when a complaint was made respecting an increase in expenditures for printing from \$700,000 to \$2 million, brushed it aside by saying, "Oh, it is a sort of petty cash account".

Mr. MARTIN: I point out that the bill did not refer to any expenditure. There was no expenditure whatsoever involved in the bill.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Oh, just a request for a blank cheque for \$2 million! Just a kind of petty cash!

Mr. MARTIN: I rise to a point of order. I am sure the hon. member wishes to be fair.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Absolutely.

Mr. MARTIN: He always wants to be fair.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Yes.

Mr. ABBOTT: Do you think it was?

Mr. MARTIN: In that bill I was not asking for a blank cheque. All we were doing, when asking that the bill be passed, was giving to the king's printer an amount of money to be put in a revolving fund. It did not in any sense represent an expenditure, but rather an advance. I am sure the hon. member will accept that.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: No argument about it at all. But that was the attitude he had, when it was pointed out that it was an increase from \$700,000 to \$2 million. The attitude was that it was a sort of petty cash account.

Well, what my hon. friend said is true. It reveals the attitude of this government.

I believe this, that a Trojan horse has found its way into the camp of the people of Canada, it consists of a desire to overexpend and a