

agencies, so that the pressure of big business could be effectively curbed and democratic direction of the war effort achieved.

4. Direct national control of all our financial institutions so that without inflation and without unnecessary future burdens of debt, we can finance our national effort.

5. There must be, at least, a one hundred per cent excess profits tax, and, indeed, on all profits a low maximum rate should be set and the excess taken by the government for our war effort.

6. The present loan policy should be replaced by one of compulsory, interest-free loans imposed on the accumulated wealth of rich individuals and corporations, and based on ability to contribute. Indeed, the fairest method would be to establish a fair maximum income for all and to tax back to the country every dollar above that maximum.

In view of the outline of the financial aid the government proposes—and quite properly—to give at this time to those who are fighting our battles across the sea, I should like to see a policy of that kind adopted. It may, indeed, become quite necessary. If we did all this, we would still be doing less to industry, to wealth and to those of us who are not called upon to surrender our futures and our lives to Canada than we propose to do to those who are being called upon to surrender themselves to fight in this terrific war.

I know that as yet we in Canada have scarcely been touched by war. When I flew from Canada to Great Britain last autumn, and when I returned again in the same quick manner, it seemed as if I had stepped from one world into another. Apart altogether from the black-outs, apart altogether from the evidences of destruction and devastation we saw round us in the great cities; apart altogether from the scarring of the countryside we noticed as we passed through; apart from the fact that to-day the people of Britain are living on rations which, despite efforts to make them healthy and adequate, are nevertheless monotonous, and insufficient to maintain that amount of energy required to carry on under the circumstances under which the people in Great Britain are living—I say that despite all these things we noticed the will of the people to carry through to victory.

I might at this point make one reference which will be familiar to those who were with me. One day we saw an aged woman outside a little corner store. I asked her if she did not wish that the government might do something to end the war to-morrow. In spite of her poverty and in spite of the fact she with many others had been bombed out of her home, she said, "No, sir, not until we have licked him."

We saw the courage of the people over there, and we realized the grimness of the struggle. We in this country have not yet begun to understand the grimness of the situation across the seas.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to leave this thought, that in addition to the provision of men to take part in the battles raging throughout the world to-day, there is something which we in Canada must be prepared to do to a greater extent than we have done before, and that is to provide the people of Great Britain with those concentrated foods which they lack and which are so greatly needed to maintain the health of their working force and their morale. Surely out of our bounty we can deny ourselves pork, bacon, ham, cheese, butter and other foods of the concentrated type so that we may send more and more across the seas to maintain the health of the women, children, workers and soldiers on that beleaguered island. When we left Great Britain that was one of the things they said: "Tell your people in Canada to send us more things—more food, more supplies. Those are the things we need."

I had not intended to say that to-night; I had intended to reserve that suggestion for some other occasion. But, Mr. Speaker, I could not let this occasion go by without saying that if it is necessary for our government to restrict the consumption of those things needed across the seas—for, out of our bounty we could substitute many other things—then I say to the government: "Restrict those supplies, and ration the country." I know the people will respond to the greatest extent to such an appeal.

On motion of Mr. Blackmore the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 9.50 p.m.

Tuesday, January 27, 1942

The house met at three o'clock.

THE WAR

IMPERIAL WAR CABINET—SUPREME ALLIED WAR COUNCIL—CANADA'S POSITION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct one or two questions to the Prime Minister, arising out of a bulletin received from London to-day in Ottawa, in which it is stated that Prime Minister Churchill announced to-day that the British government has acceded to Australia's request for representa-