

and perhaps we might even include Saskatoon—is little if at all greater than the distance between Newfoundland and Great Britain.

For our security I would suggest that the government consider using part of our air force as a defence measure in all the cities in Western Canada, and that in Regina it build a large enough air strip to accommodate bombing and large transport planes. The facilities in Regina at the present time do not make provision for this accommodation.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. J. W. de B. Farris: Honourable senators, I intend to ask permission to adjourn the debate, but before doing so I should like to make a few random remarks. If someone wishes to continue the debate now I shall gladly give way.

Some Hon. Senators: Proceed.

Hon. Mr. Farris: I was greatly interested in the speech just delivered by the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig). I agree with many things he said. I agree with him more than I do with either Mr. St. Laurent or the leader in this house about some of our immediate problems, but I want to make a few observations about points on which I do not agree with the leader opposite. He spoke of the high cost of living, and when I asked him what his remedy was he had an answer all pat; he said, "I don't have to answer". Then my honourable friend proceeded to indicate that he made a mistake one time in the Manitoba Legislature by telling the government what they should do. He knew, and they did not. They took his advice and the province was saved a million dollars. I gather that if he had to do it over again he would not make that mistake, because while it saved the province a million dollars the government got the credit for what was done. In the greatest crisis which now confronts us in regard to the cost of living, my honourable friends either knows what the remedy is or he does not know. If he does not know, there is no reason he should not be frank about it and say so; but if he does know, in light of all the suffering in this country and all the economic problems that are arising, I challenge my honourable friend's statement that he does not have to answer. To do so is a duty that transcends any obligation that he owes to his party. It is a duty and primary obligation to the people of all Canada.

A similar situation arises in connection with our immediate international problems and the grave conditions that he described. Again he said, "I am under no responsibility. It is up to the government." I point out to my honourable friend that as leader of the opposi-

tion he is paid by the Parliament of Canada—perhaps not a very large sum—for the services which he renders so well and so competently. But apart from that my honourable friend is under the same responsibility that every one of us is under, and in view of all the threats that hang over us at this time, if he has even the slightest idea of the proper solution, he should proclaim it without the least hesitation at this time.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Honourable senators, I am not quite sure that I followed what the honourable leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson) said about threats from Russia, because I was called out to answer a long distance telephone call. But I did hear what my honourable friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) said, and I am in complete agreement with him. To me it is inconceivable that the two greatest nations of this world at this time should continue to spend more than they can afford and exhaust their resources to such a degree as to threaten the standard of life in order to arm themselves to the teeth. That they should continue in this policy and that at the same time the leaders of each country should openly call the leaders of the other every name they can lay their tongues to in fighting language, and continue to stir up personal enmity in their people is, as I say, incomprehensible to me. I am sure we are all conscious of a growing personal hatred against the Russian people.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, Hear.

Hon. Mr. Farris: We cannot help it. Do you not think that with all that is going on behind the iron curtain there is an equal personal hatred being built up against us among the 200 million people in that country? It is beyond my comprehension that two countries should continue to arm themselves, to hate each other and carry on to the point where ruination and bankruptcy is threatened, with an incident happening here today and there tomorrow, without eventually going to war. I am somewhat disturbed by the number of honourable gentlemen who hold the same view today. But they did not have that view soon enough. I do not like to say "I told you so", because I do not know of anything worse to say; but I remember that in a speech which I delivered at the Convention of Weekly Newspapermen in Harrison Hot Springs, at the Vancouver Board of Trade, at a Bar Convention at Bellingham, Washington, and later in the Senate, I said that the only security we had against Russia was the knowledge and possession of the atomic bomb. I also said it was very essential that we come to a proper understanding with Russia when