

in respect of subsidies for the building of cold storage warehouses under the Cold Storage Act. Agreements have been entered into with various companies which have taken advantage of this legislation, and the supplementary estimates provide for approximately \$500,000 for this purpose.

The supplementary estimates also include an item of \$1,000,000 for additional public works in this city. The bill based on the estimates contains a section empowering the Government to borrow \$200,000,000 to cover the erection of necessary public works, and other expenses which may arise between now and next session.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Honourable senators, I am sure we all are indebted to the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Robertson) for his explanations of the huge expenditures already made or that are contemplated. The figures are indeed staggering. What is worrying not only Parliament but the people is the country's debt, the bulk of which was incurred by reason of unavoidable expenditures during the war. No doubt within a few months the debt will reach the large total of twenty billion dollars, and this will not include the many millions of future expenditures which the honourable leader mentioned.

We all are proud of Canada's war effort, by which I mean not only what was done by our armed forces, but the administration of all the activities made necessary by a global war. Generally speaking, while hostilities lasted the Government had the unanimous support of Parliament, and rightly so. We on this side of the Senate differed with the Government on one matter only, the manpower policy. But now the war is over, and it certainly is the responsibility and the duty of the government to enforce rigid economy.

I was pleased to note from this morning's paper the announcement by the Honourable the Minister of Labour that Selective Service will be abolished on January 1. That organization performed a useful function during the war, but it is no longer required. Thousands of Selective Service employees are occupying expensive buildings all across the country, so the discontinuance of their services should effect a great saving. But why should the Government stop there? During the war a large number of control boards and other organizations had to be set up, but many of them are no longer required, and I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that the services of tens of thousands of their employees from one end of the country to the other could be dispensed with most advantageously. Take the city of Ottawa, with which the honourable senator from Leeds (Hon. Mr.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

Hardy) is more familiar than I am. I venture to say that if one closed his eyes and gave an order to reduce personnel by 50 per cent, the released employees would never be missed.

I realize the difficulty that any Government has after a great war in trying to reduce the many establishments that were essential while the war was going on. I had to deal with that difficulty—on a much smaller scale, I admit—after the first Great War. Ministers are so busy that they cannot attend to the matter themselves. I should like to suggest to the honourable leader of the Government that, say, two men be clothed with authority to carry out a full investigation of all the wartime controls and departments still functioning, to eliminate those no longer essential and to reduce materially the staffs of the others. Millions of dollars could be saved by action of that kind. If sufficient authority for the investigators cannot be obtained anywhere else, the provisions of Bill 15, the famous Emergency Powers Bill, should be ample for the purpose. I have in my hand the replies to the inquiries by the honourable senator from Bedford-Halifax (Hon. Mr. Quinn) as to the total number of CWACs and Wrens who enlisted during the war and the number on strength now. The information is rather astonishing. I give great credit to the women of Canada for joining the Women's Army Corps and Naval Service and for the splendid wartime work that they did; but surely, honourable senators, we have more than reached the time when we can get along without the CWACs and Wrens. In my city the CWACs live in palatial quarters, and naturally are loath to retire from the service and return to their homes, where I am sure they are urgently needed. The total enlistment of CWACs was 21,614. Their strength on May 1 was 13,962, and on November 1 it was still at the high figure of 11,085. Up to November 30 this branch of the service cost approximately \$32,420,280. I need not go into details of the cost of barracks, housekeeping appliances and living quarters, uniforms and equipment and rations. Surely here is an opportunity to economize.

You have already seen the answer to the inquiry of the honourable gentleman from Bedford-Halifax (Hon. Mr. Quinn) with respect to the Wrens, and I hope you will pardon me for referring to it. The total enlistment of Wrens was 6,675. Today there are still 4,893 on the strength. Why do we need that number of Wrens now? If these two women's services were demobilized certain permanent positions would be available for a class of returned men who would be