

But first I should like to support what has been said by the senator from Bedford-Halifax (Hon. Mr. Quinn) as to the efficiency of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the province of Nova Scotia. I recall very well that in 1928 or 1929 the province was considering whether it would continue its own police force or enter into a contract for the services of the R.C.M.P. It was brought out then that not only would the R.C.M.P. bring about greater efficiency—and I am satisfied on that score—but that the province would save considerable money under the proposed agreement. The cost of the provincial force was a question very much to the front at the time. If I remember the figures correctly, for a provincial force of one hundred men the annual outlay was \$263,000, whereas the services of the same number of men in the R.C.M.P. could be obtained for \$150,000.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: The saving was a mess of pottage.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: My honourable friend is wrong. The provincial government no doubt took the saving into account, but it also had regard to the question of efficiency and the general over-all picture of policing the province. An arrangement was entered into, and ever since then we have had exceptionally good service from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Therefore I am happy to associate myself with the remarks of my honourable friend from Bedford-Halifax. In the past we have disagreed on some matters, which I need not mention at the moment, but there were never any hard feelings because of that. Victory would sometimes go to one side and sometimes to the other, and he and I always maintained a fine spirit of friendship. In our own part of the country we are regarded as political opponents, but, as I say, I am happy to associate myself with what he has said on this occasion.

Honourable senators, the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) has referred to the heavy expenditures that are being made, and he wonders whether the government is going to practise economy. I hope that it will, for \$850 million is a very large amount of money. As a member of the Public Accounts Committee of the other house during various sessions I had an opportunity to scrutinize expenditures very closely, and I always felt that in governments, as in business organizations, there were bound to be some expenditures open to question, but that on the whole the public funds of Canada were being properly expended.

In a reference to war expenditures, the honourable leader opposite criticized the government for its disposition of surplus supplies

and equipment. I feel that if my honourable friend had been as closely associated with the War Expenditures Committee as I was, and had listened to the arguments advanced by experts and members of the armed forces, he would have concluded, as I did, that the government can no more afford to keep on hand obsolete equipment than can a merchant who is left with poor stock. Not only did the government dispose of its surplus equipment and supplies, but in many instances it received exceptionally good prices for what we would call bargain merchandise. Further, the plants which were sold were converted for peacetime purposes, thus providing employment for a large body of Canadian labour. In my opinion, the policy of the government in that regard contributed greatly to the maintaining of the highest employment level in the history of our country.

In some isolated instances certain plants and equipment should perhaps have been retained; but I for one was not an expert in this field, and I took the advice of those who were supposed to know what might be expected to be of use in future wars. On the strength of the advice given, the committee approved of the action taken by the stores branch of the armed forces. In my opinion the government followed a wise policy in disposing of its war surpluses as it did, through the War Assets Corporation.

Although I am aware that my remarks at this time should be directed to the principle of the bill, I want to deal with one particular clause of the measure before us. The leader of the government, in introducing the bill, touched on various sections; I propose to deal only with clause 3. Subsection 1 of that clause provides that the Governor in Council may . . . authorize the production, acquisition, repair and provision of equipment, services, supplies and facilities, for the use of the naval, army and air services of the Canadian forces and the armed forces of any party to the North Atlantic Treaty . . .

In dealing with the particular subsection, I think it would be proper for me to refer to bill 3, which was passed last Saturday; and I should like, if I am permitted, to touch on the bill now being considered by the other house. All these measures are closely allied, having to do with the purchase, distribution and allocation of supplies and monies for war purposes.

Hon. Mr. Haig: On a point of order. I do not object to the honourable gentleman referring to the bill now in the other place, but, to offset any criticism in the future for failure on my part to complain, I want it understood that in doing so he is completely out of order.