

deliberations of the committee shall come enduring and beneficent reforms, and nothing that resembles failure in any way, shape or form.

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, at the present time we are discussing an unknown quantity, and it is pretty hard for anyone to tell what the post-war period will be. The government of the country is at present in the hands of a few individuals—or of a large number of individuals—who have no direct mandate from the people, but who have been assigned certain duties by a committee of parliament which is commonly known as the government of this country. Those people have been delegated certain powers by the government, and in virtue of that situation parliament is not fulfilling its functions. What we have to do now is to try to find ways and means of correcting the situation I have described.

I hope I have made myself clear enough. I am wondering how a member of parliament or any group of members can decide upon a remedy to what will be wrong in the post-war period. In the first place, when will it come? No one knows. What will it be? No one knows. During that time will Canada still be a part of the British empire? It is very possible, but no one knows. Will Canada be part of the United States of America? It is possible; no one knows. Will Canada be an independent country? No one knows. It seems to me that in order to express any opinion respecting the future one must be better informed on the present situation.

A friend of mine suggested to me this evening that members of parliament are fulfilling the duties of an economic council. We are trying to act as the antidote to the poison which is distilled by the bureaucracy we now have in Ottawa. We shall be the antidote. Shall we succeed? It is hard to tell. I do not believe any remedy of social conditions should be artificial. Sometimes the best cure of social evils is as simple as some cures for human ailments. Sometimes the most simple cure is the most effective.

We have heard about health conditions, and about employment and unemployment in the post-war period. This is a very grave problem. What will happen to all the boys who enlisted in the army and who are doing so well? We are all proud of them. At times I have to complain about the brass hats; but no one is more proud than I of the Canadian army. If they need our support now, then they will need our support—intelligent support—when the war is over. Who believes that all those fine men who are now in the three branches of the armed services will come back to Canada to do pick-and-shovel work? Who

thinks that those brilliant students who interrupted their studies to enter the armed services, either as volunteers or as trainees, will be ready to accept nothing but the dredging of the St. Lawrence waterways? Will they be ready to accept the dole? Will those fine young men who have been flying over the continents, taking a bird's-eye view of the universe, be ready to renounce all those dreams which are legitimate and which youth holds precious? Will they be prepared to start at the bottom of the ladder as common labourers? I have great respect for the common labourer. I believe sincerely the late Reverend Father Vaughan, the great English Jesuit Father, was right when he said that there is no honest work which reflects shame on the person who performs it. On the other hand, those who are fighting for the liberation of the world from certain doctrines denounced by all the democracies have every reason to think of their own future. No one has a right to assume for a single moment that a young man who goes into the army is committing suicide. I have said before, and I repeat, that my deep belief is that it is a great mistake to bring before those young men who are ready to do anything to save this country only the idea of sacrifice.

It tires me to listen to the kind of talk that is heard in this dominion. The idea that should be brought before the eyes of our youth is that of victory over any foe. Not only that; the idea of victory carries with it the idea of superiority. That is a noble feeling; it is a feeling that should be in the hearts of all the citizens of this country who are well born, who are worthy of the liberties that are given to them. I say, let us put aside this idea of inviting our young men to come into the army only with the idea of making a sacrifice. Let us give them an opportunity to do all they can, not only for us but for their own personal benefit.

I am sure that even if the history of Dieppe is repeated, the great majority of the young men, the men of middle age and the older men who are in the army in any theatre of war—I insist upon those words—will come back to this country. They know what happened in the past, and they do not want to be accorded the same treatment given to the veterans of the last war by the Borden or union government. They will not be satisfied with that. Some time before the war a former leader of the opposition who belonged to the Conservative party stated publicly that he feared a revolution. There was no war at the time. Think of the bitter disappointment these well gifted young men will have if nothing decent is offered to them when they come back to this country!