

Prime Minister and to the Minister of Finance particularly that you are expecting too much if you expect the Canadian people to raise five and a half billion dollars either by taxation or loans if you are unwilling to go to the root, quickly, of all these cases where there may have been a waste of money. These matters must be investigated and investigated quickly and far more thoroughly than would have been the case in peace time. Otherwise you cannot expect the people of this nation to stand behind you in raising five and a half billion dollars during the coming fiscal year.

Mr. LaFLECHE: With my respects to the Prime Minister and to the hon. member for Danforth may I take just a moment—

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I do not want to stop the minister, but may I ask what the minister is speaking on? He has already spoken once, and since both amendments have been ruled out of order he must be speaking to the motion.

Mr. LaFLECHE: I was speaking on the amendment which later was declared out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I recall, the minister spoke on the amendment. The amendment has been disposed of. We are now dealing with the main motion, and he is speaking now on the main motion.

Mr. MacINNIS: He has already spoken on the main motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not sure of that.

Mr. LaFLECHE: If I recall, I was speaking on the amendment. Now may I speak to the main motion? I rise for just a moment—

Mr. COLDWELL: I should like your ruling, Mr. Speaker. If the amendment is ruled out of order, can one speak to that amendment or must he speak to the motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: The minister spoke on the amendment, as I recall, and prior to that he did speak on the point of order. He is now speaking to the main motion.

Mr. LaFLECHE: I am afraid that the temperature of the country is pretty high after what has been said. May I ask what is the reason for the rise in temperature? It started, as I understand, on the strength of a press report. Many persons, it seems to me, have taken for granted that everything that appeared in the first article was words given out by the director of economies. If it is found that he did not do so, then what is the position? To come to that point now, may I read from another newspaper.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. minister, but he is now dealing with what was the subject of the amendment, which has been disposed of. The only question before us now is the motion. Is the house ready for the question?

Mr. J. A. ROSS (Souris): I have tried to say something on this for most of the afternoon. I am disappointed that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) should have raised the point of order he has in regard to the amendment. If I followed him correctly and this resolution carries, it means that under this present system we shall not be able to correct a mistake, if we see one, until that mistake is completely audited and the report tabled in this house, of course after the money is spent. In other words, the door is locked.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is not correct.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): The Prime Minister has pointed out the procedure that must be followed. I venture to say that the chairman of any committee feels exactly as the Prime Minister has expressed himself on that point. I remember, when the war expenditures committee was being set up, that the Prime Minister made remarks very similar to those made this afternoon, that he wanted everything investigated. Then I remember the speech delivered in this house by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Maybank) on March 11 or 12, 1941. I think I would read charges in that speech. He certainly built up a strong case, saying that if this matter was continued, namely the establishment of a certain plant at Winnipeg, it would mean an annual waste of \$200,000 a year. The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) said with some heat that if that were correct it should be investigated in the war expenditures committee. If I had more time I had intended to quote the speech of the minister and the hon. member at that time. However, the hon. member suggested that if that was right it was a case of locking the door after the horse was gone. This matter was raised in the war expenditures committee, and the then chairman, Mr. J. T. Thorson, ruled that the terms of reference would not allow its consideration. I submit that this is the proper place and time to set up the proper terms of reference, because, irrespective of what the Prime Minister thinks, the chairman will base his ruling upon the terms of reference under which the committee works, which will mean, if this resolution carries, that we cannot investigate anything that has taken place since March 31, 1942, in