

lishing the unrevised English edition, of which 2,000 copies are distributed daily. I venture to say that, outside of the 96 members of this House and the officials, a very limited number of people read the balance of the 2,000 copies. Then, six months after the close of Parliament, 400 copies of the Revised Edition are bound in volumes for the convenience of honourable members, and sent to libraries and other institutions. I doubt if, as a matter of fact, half-a-dozen of those 400 copies are read; and they are not referred to, except in rare instances. The other \$10,000 is spent in translating the English reports of speeches of honourable members, no matter how unimportant they may be, into the French language. Forty-five or fifty copies of the unrevised French edition are printed and circulated among a portion of the honourable members of this House four or five weeks after the debate has taken place, and, of course, after the full report has been printed in English and after the subject-matter of the debate has been finally dealt with by this House. Thus it will be seen that this dual-language verbatim official report cannot be of any practical value to even the few gentlemen supposed to be interested in it, and certainly it is of no value at all to the country.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Is that so?

Hon. Mr. DENNIS: I venture to affirm that neither this House nor the country receives any value or convenience commensurate with the cost of Hansard; and in my judgment the expenditure of \$33,000 a year for its publication is an unnecessary and unjustifiable expenditure at any time; and still worse at this crisis in our history, when we are staggering under such a crushing burden of taxes and debt, which will be felt more next year and in succeeding years than it is now.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I thought the honourable leader of the Government would be able to answer that question.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It is for the House.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: The Government of the day should give their views. Of course, if the honourable leader of the Government does not reply, a member of the Opposition will have to take his place.

The principle of this motion by the honourable member from Halifax does not appeal to the common sense of the country, nor to its enlightenment. The press have been during the past twelve months pretty

well muzzled. I suppose the honourable member from Halifax understands what I mean. Now, the honourable member from Halifax, who did not have to be muzzled through his newspapers, comes to Parliament at this late hour of the session and asks the Senate to muzzle itself. The proposition to my mind is infantile. Infantile paralysis permeates the whole proposition. The proposition is made on the ground that the country will be saved some \$20,000 or \$30,000. Honourable gentlemen, what is that in a budget of one billion dollars? The honourable gentleman's motive is a correct one—very correct; it is to decrease expenditure. Why does he not turn his eyes to other publications and ask the Government to save not merely \$20,000 or \$30,000, but millions of the public money which is yearly voted by Parliament to the different newspapers of Canada and in foreign lands? Why does he not turn his attention to the advertising in the public press during the past twelve months, especially on one side, that is, the Union side? How many papers will get, or have already got, cheques for \$25,000, \$50,000, \$75,000, \$100,000 or \$150,000. For what? For advertising purposes which are absolutely useless so far as the general public is concerned. The honourable senator from Halifax who has proposed this motion should be an authority on that question. How much have his publications in the city of Halifax received from this Government in the past six years? If he would state that to this honourable House, the House would soon see that the \$20,000 or \$30,000 a year for the publication of Hansard would be a mere fleabite in the bill.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS: Will the honourable gentleman allow me? I am unable to give the figures that he asks for in that connection, but I will say this, that for every dollar received one hundred cents' worth of value has been given.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: That is a very good proposition; and for every cent that has been spent in the publication of Hansard and, comparatively, for the one hundred per cent of value given by the honourable gentleman's publications, three hundred per cent, if not more, has been given in Hansard. I will tell you why. What appears in the newspapers—and the honourable gentleman is one of the leading newspaper proprietors in this country—is published in the morning and forgotten in the afternoon, while Hansard is a record of the nation's thought, whether it be trivial or serious. Hansard is there, con-