

say that Britain could not win through without aid from the United States, backed, as she is, by all the resources and the man power of the sister dominions, if placed at her disposal; but the burden is so great, the theatre of war has been so greatly extended, that to me it is extremely doubtful whether, left without outside aid, the issue can be decided in favour of the democracies. It might well end in a stalemate. The material assistance which the United States has already given, can give, and I am sure will give with increasing momentum in the ensuing months, will without question be of decisive importance, and may well turn the scale.

We should, I think, frankly recognize this fact and not in any degree attempt to deny it. We all listened with emotion to the last broadcast of the British Prime Minister, in which he appealed to the people of the United States to give Britain the weapons, the materials and supplies, the instruments—and the job would be done. How heartened we all were at the words of Lord Beaverbrook yesterday in which, among other things, he said that nazi war planes had lost their terror; that, when Churchill came to power, the people of Britain feared them; now they defy them. I was especially impressed with that part of his plea in which he urged the people of this dominion to send food and weapons, and exhorted them "to seek the world over for ships." We are sending food, for a price. Have we ever given any food to Britain? How many weapons have we actually sent to Britain other than those for our own forces? We are not told. When a cry like Beaverbrook's comes to our ears, are we not uncomfortable at the thought that we do not know what has been done, that our government soothes us with promises and generalities, but is never factual? Is it possible that we have done nothing? I do not think so. I should like to know.

Then the cry for ships and shipping! We are to build ships for the account of the British government, but how many keels have actually been laid? Let the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) tell us what progress has been made.

While I am paying a tribute to the might and importance of the United States in this gigantic struggle as it will affect the issue, may I be permitted to draw the attention of the house and of the country to the fact that the Prime Minister, in the course of his address did not tell the house or the country anything at all with respect to the war relations of Canada and the United States in connection with the recommendations, and operations resulting therefrom, arising out of

the appointment of the joint defence board. On no occasion has he done so. To me this omission is amazing. It is well known that the board has had many meetings. It has travelled over this continent from east to west, and back again. Undoubtedly it has made recommendations. What is the nature of these recommendations? Are the Canadian people to be told? Apparently not. If we are not to be told what these recommendations are, then at least we should be told why we are not to be told. I invite the Prime Minister to tell us all that can be safely stated. If there are deep military secrets which may not be divulged because of their nature and because public knowledge would endanger the safety of the state, and give information to the enemy or possible enemies, then I would not press for details. But, generally speaking, we should know. It is not good enough merely to say we are working in close harmony with the defence department of the United States.

It will be recalled that during the course of the debate on the address on December 3 last I asked the Prime Minister across the floor of this chamber if there were any commitments; and, intervening in my address, he declared vehemently and emphatically that there were none. I confess I am puzzled about the situation. There are no commitments, we are told. Are there understandings? There is no evidence of joint undertakings except, as I understand it, that the great airport at Gander, Newfoundland, which Canada is building and at great cost; the work on which is said to have bogged down in an amazing degree, and which will cost much more than double the estimate, is to be used—and quite properly—by the United States air force. Is there any deep military reason why we should not know something of this?

Frankly I cannot understand the statement that there are no commitments. I invite the Prime Minister to tell us all that is permissible and within reasonable limitations; and I suggest that that is a reasonable request.

The Prime Minister devoted some time to repeating the substance of a recent radio address in connection with the war savings drive, to a review of the development of the army, navy and air force, and the dispatch overseas in 1941 of more units.

May I pause here to congratulate the Minister of Finance upon the statement which he made this afternoon before the orders of the day were called? The effort resulting from the war savings certificates drive shows what a united nation can do, and what Canada is doing to-day. Notwithstanding the fact that things are as they are in my province, I know that the people got behind this war