

reimposition of the excess profits tax. It is sad to sit in this house now after being here during the period of the war and listening to speeches made from both sides of the house with regard to the question of money. During the war everyone said that what is physically possible will be made financially possible. That was fine during the war. The economy was controlled to some extent; ministers had some authority and some responsibility, and they carried out that policy. There was no shortage of money. We were giving away billions of dollars. But now that the war is over we are back to the old machine that we had up to 1939.

A moment ago the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) said the cost of a coast guard on the Pacific coast would be too great.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I did not say that.

Mr. GILLIS: The minister said it would involve a large expenditure of money.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I referred to the cost of a coast guard service, which is an entirely different thing.

Mr. GILLIS: The minister said it would cost a lot of money. It is again the question of money. Money is the limiting factor in developing our country. In my opinion, it is not money that counts. I think that every member here has a mission to perform as he is passing through this life.

Mr. CHEVRIER: And that is to ask for more and more.

Mr. GILLIS: No; to make this world a little better than it was when he came into it. If the Minister of Transport would build that causeway which has been suggested and put his name on it—call it Chevrier bridge—long after he left this part of the world people would say that he was a great Minister of Transport.

Mr. CHEVRIER: They will say that in any event.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. GILLIS: And they would say that he created new wealth in the country. If he puts a coast guard out there at the Pacific coast and we pay taxes to keep it up, so long as service is given nobody kicks about taxes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. GILLIS: If they are getting something for them.

An hon. MEMBER: Social credit.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

[Mr. Gillis.]

Mr. GILLIS: I would strongly urge upon the Prime Minister that when he is making his speech he pay some attention to the many resolutions and press statements which are going out across the country, emanating from the ordinary people who have to buy and who receive just enough to get a bite to eat. I suggest that the Prime Minister pay some attention to these statements and try to stop price increases, and then let the committee carry on and investigate. If on the basis of investigation you find you have not been right, you can correct your mistake. If you have been right, you can continue on and extend your policy.

Mr. W. F. KUHL (Jasper-Edson): I have only a few words to say on this motion, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. KUHL:—unless I am provoked into saying more than I had intended to say. I believe this motion has been introduced largely because in the house and the country there is a great deal of confusion on fundamental principles. I believe that the public generally—including most of the members of this house, have not yet a proper conception of fundamental principles. I do not think we have yet reached the stage where we have clearly defined in our minds what constitutes a properly functioning democracy. I shall try in a few moments to give my views as to what constitutes a properly functioning democracy in relation to this particular resolution.

First of all I think we shall have to spend a little time in defining the duties and responsibilities of the electors as such; then we shall have to try to come to some conclusion as to what is our particular duty as members of parliament and what generally speaking is the duty of the government. If we can come to an agreement on these particular aspects of the matter we shall make more progress in considering resolutions and motions such as the one now before us.

I think the confusion which exists in the public mind arises because there is not a clear differentiation between the duties of citizens as such and the duties of members of parliament. Member after member has risen in this house and said that the people of Canada demand price control. As members we have been receiving resolutions, letters and telegrams from labour bodies, organizations of various kinds, and individuals, demanding that we support the reimposition of price controls. I wish to say, as I have said in reply to those who have written to me and telegraphed me, that I do not think that the