

the remaining supplies of the same kind still available to the public.

One of the most important steps in checking inflation undoubtedly is the elimination of all unnecessary non-defence expenditure. We have urged before, and I urge again, that a royal commission be appointed, or a special committee with similar powers, for the purpose of going fully into the cost of government, with the idea of reducing all non-essential expenditure. I hope we shall not be told that such an inquiry cannot be conducted, or that it would not be effective. Such a commission did produce positive results in the United States. I am certain that we are not so different from them, and that the normal human frailties are not so remote from us, that a similar inquiry would not produce equally positive results here. I urge the Prime Minister to assure us that he will agree to the appointment of such a commission or committee. The findings of such an inquiry would be of great assistance to him and to the government generally at a time when such assistance is so greatly needed.

High though wages in Canada may be, the cost of living has already risen so high that our people are finding it most difficult to make ends meet. When we realize that taxes necessary to produce the money for national defence will have their impact upon every family, whether in the form of income taxes or other levies, the necessity for dealing promptly and effectively with this situation becomes increasingly urgent.

I wish to emphasize once again the very critical situation which is resulting from the steadily lessening value of our dollar. As inflation reduces its real value, now at a point little more than half what it was ten years ago, the consequences for those living on pensions, annuities of various kinds, or small fixed incomes, is truly heartbreaking. Inflation of this kind not only reduces the living standard of all those affected in this way, but tends to destroy confidence in the very system we are doing so much to preserve. It tends to raise questions about insurance, bank deposits and the savings which have been the very foundation of that measure of personal security which can be established by the initiative of our people.

Until we know what the government intends to do in the matter of national defence and the other problems before us, it is not possible to discuss this subject in further detail. I urge the Prime Minister to let us know what they have in mind, so that the doubts and uncertainties which are in themselves creating inflation may be stopped, for the purpose of giving some measure of confidence to those who are already in such great distress.

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

There is another aspect of this world struggle between the Soviet empire and the free nations which I think requires constant and the strongest possible emphasis. We are told, and with great truth, that poverty and low standards of living are in themselves an encouragement to communism. Most certainly it is part of this struggle to help in every way we can to build up the living standards and the social consciousness of those nations which need our help so much. I am confident that members of this house will support all practical measures which will bring hope and encouragement to those who are in such great distress in so many parts of the world.

There is more to this struggle, however, and particularly in the more prosperous nations, than the material advantages which life can offer. If democracy has nothing better to offer than a higher material standard of living, then it would seem that if tyranny, whether it be communism or otherwise, can offer equally high material advantages in any country, it will lose some of the apparent dangers associated with it, and the arguments against communism will lose some of their strength.

I am sure we all believe that freedom itself gives vigour to life and an encouragement to personal initiative which makes it an infinitely more efficient way of life than any form of tyranny can ever be. But we are trying to do something more than raise the material living standards of our people, important though that is to all of them. The fundamental difference between communism and our way of life is that our form of democracy is based upon religion and the equality of every human being before God. Once we disregard that concept of our society we disregard the great driving power which revived democracy out of the darkness of the middle ages, and which has given to our laws and to our standards of life those ethical principles which have made democracy the highest form of government known to mankind.

If there is one lesson which it seems to me we should have learned from the events of the past two months, it is this. The communist forces in Korea have shown themselves to be no dull, downtrodden slaves. On the contrary, every report from Korea speaks of the fanaticism with which they have fought. Granted they have been driven into battle under the threat of death, and that they have been given no choice but to fight, the fact remains that in the minds of all too many of them there is a real faith in the cruel, godless religion which has its centre in Moscow. Young people brought up under