

to help the government in its efforts toward defence, I intend to support the government and to oppose the amendment.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on Monday last in order that the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie) might present to the house the defence estimates for the coming year, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) moved that the house go into committee of supply. That motion was met by an amendment moved by the member for Vancouver North (Mr. MacNeil). Although hon. members are already familiar with the terms of the amendment, its true significance should once more be pointed out. The amendment of the hon. member is in the following words:

That all the words after the word "that" in the motion be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"This house views with grave concern the startling increases of expenditure proposed by the government for the purpose of national armament in contrast with the inadequate provision for the social security of all sections of the Canadian people."

In the form in which it has been moved, the amendment expresses want of confidence in the government. From an examination of its wording, it would appear that hon. members of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation had had some difficulty among themselves in agreeing upon something they would all be able to support, something which would appear to condemn the expenditures on defence but which at a later time, should the occasion render it advisable, would enable them to shelter themselves under the statement that they had not in fact opposed the defence estimates as such.

Let me again draw attention to the wording of the amendment:

This house views with grave concern the startling increases of expenditure proposed by the government for purposes of national armament in contrast with the inadequate provision for the social security of all sections of the Canadian people.

Note the words "views with grave concern" the increase in the estimates. Mr. Speaker, we all view with grave concern increases in expenditures for purposes of defence, but that is only a reflection of the concern which world conditions have created in the minds of people in all countries throughout the world. It is not singular that this house should feel concerned at the necessity at this time of adding more by way of defence. When one realizes what the conditions in Europe have been during the last four or five years; when one views the present situation in Spain; when one sees the nations of

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Europe doing their utmost to prevent what is now a terrible civil war becoming part of a great international conflict, there is reason for concern. But that concern is something which all of us feel quite as much as the hon. members who have moved and seconded the amendment.

Note, however, that the concern the amendment expresses is not with the increase in the estimates. I desire particularly to draw the attention of hon. members to that fact. There is nothing in the amendment which says that hon. members of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation oppose the estimates to be presented to the house. The concern is over the contrast between the amount to be voted for defence and that to be voted, as they say, for purposes of social security.

May I make one observation in regard to social security. I should be inclined to believe that the security of one's country would rank as the first among all social securities. If through invasion, or aggression in some other form, anything should happen to Canada, I am afraid that what else we may have in the way of social security would, at least for the time being, go pretty well by the board. It is an entirely erroneous conception of the meaning of words to say that social security should be confined only to certain social services some hon. members may have in mind and which could not be carried on at all unless there were social security for the country as a whole.

Let me now speak more specifically about the contrast. I wonder if hon. members responsible for the amendment have ever made a comparison between what is spent in other countries for purposes of social security and for defence and the corresponding sets of expenditures in Canada. If they have, they will have found that in comparison with what Canada is spending for social security, she is spending relatively much less for purposes of defence than is the case with any other country of importance in the world.

Hon. members are most unfair when they draw comparisons between expenditures voted for purposes of defence by this house, and the amount that is being voted for social services by this house. I say "by this house" because of the money of the taxpayers of this country they are taking account only of what is being voted by this house. But hon. members know very well that while there are certain obligations which rest upon the federal treasury, there are also some which rest upon the provinces and upon the municipalities. They have carefully avoided making any mention of what comes out of the taxes of the