

Our position with respect to this service has been made clear and we shall not take up any more of the time of the committee. I wish it to be recorded that we think the amount asked for is an unnecessarily large expenditure now that the war is over.

Mr. MacINNIS: It is hard to know how to vote on this amendment, because the mover, the leader of the opposition, has not given us any reason for reducing the amount, except that he considers it to be too large. In order that we may know whether it is too large or not, the committee should have some information as to what is done under this appropriation. If the leader of the opposition is opposed to the appropriation, that would be understandable, but simply to move that it be cut in half is not understandable without a clear understanding of what is required to be done under it. I am just as much in favour of eliminating useless expenditures as any hon. member, but I think we should have some logical basis on which to operate.

Mr. NICHOLSON: During the war from the same quarters we heard criticisms of the work of the wartime information board. People who criticized government expenditures of relatively few thousands of dollars in the field of information offered no objection whatever to very large expenditures in the field of production. They saw no objection to the government going into industry and paying a man \$20,000 a year to do a particularly important job in the field of production, but they could not approve paying salaries to do an efficient job in the field of information. I think it was important during the war that we should give to our Canadian people information on the progress of our war effort in Canada, and, now that the war is over, I think it is important that Canada give information to other parts of the world on the work that is being done on the Canadian scene. The motion presented by the leader of the opposition asks us to reduce this item from \$640,000 to \$320,000. If he would state whether he was opposed to providing supplies for libraries abroad, printing and stationery or any other specific items listed we would be better able to judge what merit there was in his case, but unless we have more specific information from the official opposition of the items to which they object it will be difficult to support their motion.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I rise to support the motion of my leader. I think we should have a statement from the minister as to what this vote involves. A number of mem-

[Mr. Bracken.]

bers on the other side of the house have said that we have been saying: Oh, this is an expenditure of only a quarter of a million dollars, or only \$600,000, or only \$500,000, or something like that, but I would point out that what we need in this country is a reduction in expenditure so that we may have a reduction in taxation. Every item of expenditure should be scrutinized to the last dollar by the ministry. They are the fellows who have to do the job, those on the treasury benches over there, although there are not many of them there just now. They are the ones who spend the taxpayers' money, and don't forget that it is the taxpayers' money because you cannot get money out of the air. It must all come out of the individual workers in this country and it is vital that we cut down our expenditures. Do we need this Canadian information service? Has anybody shown that we need it? I have not the figures here showing what it costs. I left them on my desk upstairs. Is it one of the luxuries of government, or is it absolutely necessary? I certainly support my leader's amendment. We must spend a certain amount for information purposes, and that is why he has not asked to reduce the vote to \$1. His amendment would cut the expenditure in two. I think, before we vote on this amendment, we should have a statement from the government benches. What is the government doing generally to cut down expenditures in this country?

Amendment (Mr. Bracken) negatived.

Item agreed to.

Demobilization and Reconversion—Privy Council Office—
592. Rehabilitation information committee, \$242,000.

Mr. MASSEY: Would the minister briefly outline the work that is being done by this committee, its nature and extent?

Mr. MARTIN: This is assistance rendered by C.I.S. to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the three defence departments and the Department of Labour in trying to bring home to men and women in the armed services the facilities and opportunities which veterans' legislation affords them. The number of inquiries from veterans is still considerable, and this service, as the hon. gentleman who has seen service with such distinction will know, is required particularly to give service men in addition to the other facilities put at their disposal an adequate opportunity of knowing