

*Committee on Defence Expenditures*

be taken in interpreting the duties of the committee. I think what the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has said would indicate that that is likely to be the case.

I should like to comment in particular upon one or two things the hon. member for Cape Breton South said. He seemed to me to be putting before us in a realistic manner something that we may be inclined from time to time to forget. I took down one or two things which he said which interested me. First of all he made what might be considered a kind of generous suggestion, but I think if one reflects on it he will see that it was a very practical thing. Speaking about the need of our assisting Great Britain, the hon. member made the general observation that people in strategic spots worse off than we are must be considered part of our duty. You might say that that is going pretty far, yet it is a job in connection with which we need to have everybody wholeheartedly associated. I was glad to hear the hon. member say that, and I hope that a good deal of that spirit will be apparent in everything that we do.

The hon. member for Cape Breton South spoke at some length about the necessity of increasing the production of steel. My understanding is that our steel capacity is being substantially if not vastly extended. I have been told that and I hope that that will partly answer the question which he raised.

There is a little hobby that I have been riding which I hope may possibly be open for discussion when this committee is assembled. I have a strong feeling that the department of defence, even with the tremendous civilian organization that they have, should have all the expert outside assistance they can get. I pointed out previously that a comparatively small department such as the film board had availed themselves of this type of expert assistance. I was told that these expert companies were only for small institutions. I was rocked back on my heels considerably when that was said, and I know now that it would be hard to imagine anything further from the truth. The actual fact is that large organizations employ them. As a matter of common sense that is what one would expect, and as a matter of fact that is what happens.

The hon. member for Cape Breton South spoke about our duty, as a matter of self-interest, to assist the United Kingdom and he referred to what they had done. I should like to take just a minute to read an extract from the well-known United States publication *New Republic*, which I think of as being a rather leftist publication. I did not expect to find it taking such a robust attitude toward

war preparations or in their attitude toward Great Britain. I was pleased to see this headline on the outside cover of the issue of November 5:

*Churchill's Tasks*

How we can help him to help us

It was the words "to help us" that I liked. Then there is an editorial entitled "Churchill's task" which begins with these words:

Winston Churchill is once again prime minister of Great Britain. We suspect that he could be elected President of the United States.

Then they go on to speak about Churchill and his relation to the Anglo-American partnership. Then later they refer to the importance of a common front in Europe. They speak about the attitude of Churchill as the founder and chief spokesman of the European movement. They speak of Schuman and his desire for unity. Then they say this:

Eisenhower is for it; Truman and Churchill should join in carrying it through.

Then they say:

Churchill takes power at a time when negotiations with Russia seem again to be just over the horizon.

I do not know whether they would write that today.

Churchill can give to these negotiations the confidence and daring that the west has lacked since the days when he and Roosevelt pursued their grand design.

I have wandered a bit afield, and I shall not trespass upon your generosity any further, Mr. Speaker. I would just say that I hope this committee can be of practical value. I should like to reiterate one thing my leader said, and that is to question what I understand to be the rather substantial amount we spend on public relations. When the Department of Agriculture spends money on public relations one may, from time to time, have questions. But if they are sending out recipes for cooking or sending out literature which tells people how to plant better or work their farm better, it is rather difficult to deny that the literature may be useful, even though one realizes that it will come to them through the Right Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), and that of necessity it will inure to the benefit of the Department of Agriculture not only in its technical sense but in its political quality. We cannot help that, of course. For the life of me I cannot see why we should spend money through the Department of National Defence educating the people. I would have thought that the things which need to be done could be done, as my leader has said, through the press. That is one of the things I hope we shall come to in this committee. I again echo the hope of my leader, and of the hon. member for Cape Breton South