

tion of the war in order that no question as to its adequacy may be raised in any section or by any class of people in the dominion.

But the government must go farther than that. It has not always carried out its logical duty and obligation to the Canadian people since this war started. I say that in a constructive way, but I hope a lesson will be taken in the future from what I say. The Canadian people want to be told more about the manner in which these tremendous appropriations are being spent. They want to have more than a general statement that money is being used for the army, for the navy, for the air force or some other important branch of our public service. The Minister of Finance cannot render a greater service to the people than by giving a proper and detailed accounting. The people of Canada will then have the confidence in the government of which the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green) spoke a few moments ago.

I should like to refer to another matter brought up by the hon. member for Vancouver South, the abolition of partisanship in connection with this war effort. This matter has been referred to so often that perhaps it is not necessary to speak of it at this time. Above all things that we ask, above all things that we demand of the government today, is that they give the Canadian people at least something similar to that kind of leadership which is being given in Great Britain, yes, and in the United States which is not even in the war. Surely we have a right to ask that of the government. We have a right to ask that we be given that kind of leadership so that when the foremost men of this country go on the air, appear on the public platform or make statements in the press, they will grip this nation and bring it to the point where the spirit and hearts of the people will be in this war to its ultimate and logical conclusion.

Without wanting to be harsh in my criticism, may I say that I do not think there are many people in Canada who will not aim some criticism at the government on that score. It may be that this is not possible because we operate under a party system. If it is not possible for that reason, then let us abolish our present system and bring our war effort to the point where the Canadian people really believe it ought to be. Let us consider some examples of the leadership which has been given by this government since the war started, and perhaps more recently since the present parliament opened.

Certainly there is the feeling in the minds of many people in this dominion that there has been a distinct lack of planning in our war effort. You see that statement in the

press, and you hear it made all over—that from the very beginning of the war there has not been the real kind of planning that is so essential not only for its successful prosecution but in the interests of our general war-time economy.

Let me speak for a moment about economy in non-war expenditures. The Minister of Finance made only a short speech, and I commend him for that because if there is one thing about the Minister of Finance that I cannot criticize, it is that he always gets to the point when he makes a statement. I hope that habit will spread to the rest of the cabinet. I was not looking at the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) because in his statements he is even briefer than the Minister of Finance.

In one pungent part of his address the Minister of Finance made this statement, and we all agreed with every word of it. He said on February 18, at page 824 of *Hansard*:

I need not say that to carry out the war programme for which we are asking the house to make provision will tax Canada's productive capacity to the limit, will necessitate a continuing and more rapid shift from peace-time to war-time production—

I ask hon. gentlemen to pay special attention to the following sentence:

—and will require for many of us drastic changes in our mode of living and habits of life.

Those are grand words, and I would say that never since Canada became a nation has there been throughout this whole dominion a more earnest and a more active desire on the part of the average citizen to make the necessary sacrifices, yes, even the drastic changes in our mode of living that will be necessary in order that the money may be raised to continue to prosecute our war effort. But is it too much, Mr. Speaker, to ask for some leadership in this direction from the Minister of Finance himself? Is it out of place for the people of Canada to ask that the government should give leadership in changing drastically the habits and modes of their lives as administrators for the Dominion of Canada?

But I look over the estimates for the coming year and what do I find? I hoped that when the Minister of Finance talked about requiring fifty per cent of the national income for war purposes, he had in mind doing something in that regard with the estimates. But perhaps he was a little too brief in his argument before the treasury board; for I find that the only reduction in the current estimates is that the amount this year is \$433,000,000 as compared with \$451,000,000 last year. That figures out, on a percentage basis, to only a four per cent reduction, and if you leave out of account the