

three and a half million dollars, on the Dominion Government. The work has been well and economically done, and on behalf of the people of Manitoba, and especially those in the city of Winnipeg and the Red River valley, I thank the Canadian Government and the Canadian people for what they have done in this regard.

Next I wish to discuss the housing problem. I think the government made a mistake some six or seven months ago when it changed the housing regulations so that larger down-payments would be required on new homes. The housing problem in Winnipeg is not as serious at the present time as it was a year or two ago, but I understand that it is a vexing one in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. The housing question goes to the very root of family life. Unless housing accommodation is satisfactory there cannot be proper family life. The profession to which I have the honour to belong constantly has to meet the problem of broken homes. One of the things which saddens a lawyer's heart—and many of us do have a heart—is to see a home broken up because four or five children are forced to live in a three-roomed house. I realize that the problem facing the government is a serious one; but the people of Canada will insist upon its solution. And the problem is one that I think can be solved. I am glad to see that the government propose to afford some let-up in the regulations for purchasing new homes, but I think they will have to go further and revert to the regulations which existed prior to the last seven or eight months.

I have mentioned the cost of administration on municipal, provincial and federal levels in this country, and I recall the examination made by a committee of this house just about four months ago. If we are going to carry on adequately the preparation for a war of freedom, spending large sums of money to properly equip our armed forces, and if we are going to make any effort at all to keep the cost of living down, we have got to do something about the cost of civil government. I am not referring at all to the spending of the Defence Department. There might be some criticism of that, but I am not going to talk about it today. I do know that if administration some ten or twelve years ago cost so much money, there is something wrong if the cost has doubled or trebled today, with no corresponding increase in the population of the country. The people of Canada have to be advised about, this. But I shall not go into the details of this question now because it was covered fully a year ago.

The Speech from the Throne forecasts legislation dealing with NATO, of the dispatch of soldiers to Europe, the development of the

St. Lawrence Seaway, the construction of a causeway to bridge the straits of Canso, certain developments in Western Canada, and old age pensions. I shall deal more fully with these in a moment, but first I want to say that nobody can object to these proposed undertakings as a whole. Nobody can object, for instance, to the St. Lawrence Seaway, if it will do what the engineers predict—cheapen the movement of goods between Ontario and Quebec and the western provinces and Europe. It is all to the good if it will lower the cost of transporting fuel from the Maritime Provinces to Fort William, and the carrying of iron ore from Quebec to the ovens of Ontario and the United States.

Hon. Mr. MacLennan: May I say just one word? The honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) has said that nobody could take objection to these projects. Well, I would take strenuous objection to the St. Lawrence Seaway. I think it would be detrimental to the Maritime Provinces, which are badly handicapped now. It would simply mean that they would be still further handicapped. Ontario and Quebec would benefit, of course, and it rather appears that many people think Ontario and Quebec constitute the Dominion of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I have very great respect for the opinion of the honourable senator from Margaree Forks (Hon. Mr. MacLennan), but I must respectfully submit that this development will take place in any event. Let us take the construction of a causeway to bridge the straits of Canso for rail and road traffic. I do not think the province of Manitoba is particularly interested in whether or not those straits are bridged; but I feel that in a country as large as ours one section cannot say, because a certain development will not help it, that it should not be carried out. As far back as I can remember in politics, there has always been somebody who said that he was going to build a causeway across the straits of Canso; and I would like to see it finished in my lifetime.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: These undertakings, the St. Lawrence Waterway, old age pensions, and so on, will cost somewhere around a billion and a quarter dollars, and I want honourable senators to remember that figure.

An Hon. Senator: The cost will be more than that.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Then, of course, there are the defence estimates, which I am not touching on; the cost of civil government, which I have already covered; and the cost of good roads, and so on. That brings me to the subject of my address, inflation. Communism