

The Budget—Mr. Castleden

ago, when we tried to get them to hold price controls, they scrapped them. The finance minister tells the great Canadian people that the cure is to sharpen their pencils. They will have to do a lot of sharpening to meet prices today, with the cost of living at the present level in Canada. The only sharpening of pencils that the western farmer knows about is when he goes to the bank to borrow some more money, because he can get no cash with which to carry on and to put in his crop this year. How can our gross national income and production increase if we have not markets in which we can sell our goods? What good is international economic co-operation or general agreements on trade and tariffs when our goods are too high priced to sell? Producers from Europe are delivering steel goods in Montreal; for instance, we are told that nails are being delivered at \$3 a keg less than the figure at which we can produce them in Canada. No whistling-in-the-dark budget such as that which we are given will correct the facts of the situation. Every major sign of a serious decline is here, including the great optimism of the cabinet and of the minister himself. With such situations as this, Canadians review and look over the budget with a great deal of careful examination and with a discerning eye.

They look at various expenditures such as those on defence and wonder how much of this is outdated. I think every person in public life today should be warning the people and placing the facts before them with respect to one of the greatest dangers that face the world and civilization. Recent developments are such as to demand that the world powers get together on the H-bomb problem. Unless mankind can control the bomb then our civilization faces destruction. Time is rapidly running out. We have in the United Nations machinery which can control the H-bomb or N-bomb or cobalt bomb and can stop them. I do not think there is any other agency that can. But real co-operation is required in getting together those nations which have the know-how. Our existence depends on mankind's ability to accept the authority of the United Nations and its willingness to place all bomb experimentations under a United Nations committee.

It is evident today that bigger and more terrible bombs will be exploded as long as the three great powers that now have the know-how refuse to get together. More and more terrible means of destruction will be devised until finally humanity will be shocked out of its insanity. People who have watched the rapid growth of the power and destructiveness of this fearful weapon and who know its possibilities realize by now that this is

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no longer merely a nightmare of the future, as we looked upon it a few years ago, but a hideous reality that is here today. Its fearful effects are slowly beginning to be realized by the masses of the people; and the masses of the people will make governments move some day if they do not move of their own volition. Man has finally found some of the inner secrets of nature which heretofore have mercifully been withheld from him, but man in refusing to work together with his fellow men is proving that he lacks to a great degree the moral responsibility to handle such knowledge.

The possibilities of even the H-bomb, let alone the nitrogen bomb, should arouse the most serious reflection in the mind and conscience of every human being capable of comprehension. Can science be allowed to produce more and more terrible engines of destruction? If we continue along the path which is being followed at present we will come to a point where vast areas of the world, now the homes of millions of people, will be contaminated by the vile dust from these death-dealing weapons. Recent reports show that the explosion at Bikini in March of this year affected a vessel some 2,200 miles away, a location heretofore thought to be beyond the range of harm. A report from Tokyo found in the Montreal *Star* of Saturday last has this to say:

The master of a radioactive Japanese fishing vessel reported today his boat was 2,200 miles away from Bikini when the United States touched off its second hydrogen device March 26. The log of the *Misaki Maru* said it was operating at a point near Angaur, in the Caroline islands, from March 19 through March 29. A geiger counter clicked 200 times per minute when it was placed near the head of one of the crew men after the *Misaki Maru* reached port yesterday. About 45 beats per minute is considered the safety limit. Nevertheless, the tuna catch of the *Misaki Maru* was pronounced free of contamination and sent to fish markets for sale.

The *Misaki Maru's* location was made known as the government fisheries bureau announced it would begin a search for new fishing grounds "secure from the hydrogen bomb." Examinations by Japanese doctors revealed that the *Misaki Maru's* crew had no external sores as in the cases of 23 men of the *Fukuryu Maru* who were burned by a fall out of hot ashes from the March 1 Bikini-Eniwetok blast.

In spite of past failures, I think Canada should be taking the lead in urging the nations of the world to get together. I was glad to hear the statement of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) this afternoon, although it still seems to fall far short. I believe the matter is important enough for Canada to request a meeting of the general assembly of the United Nations in order that this problem may be solved, because the sands of time are running out.