

are not committed under the charter to send troops to Europe. Does anyone for a moment think that if the United States sends as many as twenty divisions overseas, and if France, Belgium and Australia each do their share, we will not have to contribute manpower? How else are the necessary troops going to be provided? I want the government, and especially the Minister of External Affairs, to tell us this afternoon how the manpower needs are going to be met. There are those who advocate the keeping of our troops in Canada for our own protection. To me that is just a policy of isolationism, much like that of the United States of earlier days—a policy by which that country very nearly lost its liberty through unpreparedness.

That is all I have to say at this time, honourable senators. I will listen with pleasure to the explanations which will be given in committee.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. T. A. Crerar: Honourable senators, this appropriation bill has to do with war expenditures, and it is one which the house has no alternative but to pass. Nevertheless, we should be conscious of the fact that we are taking the first step of a journey down a long road, the end of which we cannot now see.

Persons who have observed international affairs over the past few years are conscious of the fact that there has been a gradual deterioration in conditions during that time. There have been hopes that the world might escape another cataclysm such as the recent world war, that the United Nations organization might in some way prepare the road to permanent peace. Those hopes are now vanishing, and we are faced with the grim fact that war in the future can only be avoided through the building up as rapidly as possible of the defences of the freedom-loving countries. It is scarcely necessary for me to emphasize that situation to honourable members of this house.

Facing a grim future, as we do, it seems to me that this is a good time to take stock of our own position. I am not very much concerned about the problem raised by the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) respecting the use to which our manpower may be put. I am more concerned about the fact that the waging of war today is a tremendously costly business. The cost per man of prosecuting the Second World War was easily double that of carrying on the First World War; and it is a safe prediction that if, unhappily, another war should come about, the cost of it will be much greater than that of the war of 1939-45. That means, honourable

senators, that a tremendous burden will be thrown upon the economies of all the countries engaged in such a war.

I hold firmly to the view that it is the part of wisdom for this parliament and for the Canadian people to pay as they go as much of the costs as possible. I have a horror of increasing debt, because as debt and inflation grow it is the innocent people of this country who suffer most. I refer to those who through their savings and the purchase of annuities have endeavoured to provide against the needs of the day when they can no longer work. They have the least voice in the affairs of the country today; yet they will suffer heavily.

Hon. Mr. Quinn: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: The middle-class people, or, if you like, the lower middle-class people, have done much of the work of this country. They have looked after our municipal business in all its phases; they are the ones who for the most part have kept our churches and educational institutions going and today, because of increased taxation and the inflationary processes which a great war or vast preparation for war is almost certain to let loose, they are the ones who will suffer most.

It is a safe calculation that within the next twelve months the commonwealth countries—that includes Great Britain—the United States and the western European countries will probably spend as much as \$35 billion for defence. Let us not delude ourselves that the amount we are voting today will cover all our expenditures. It is just the commencement of expenditures. We will be asked at the next session of parliament to vote substantially larger amounts than we voted at the last session plus the present appropriation.

One of the great tasks which governments today face is that of relieving as far as possible the effects of inflation. This can to a large extent be done by taxation; but if we are going to meet increasing obligations for the cost of defence and at the same time maintain our current high standard of living, we will place upon this country an unbearable burden of taxation.

My first suggestion is that the federal government, all the provincial governments and every municipal body in this country should pare to the bone their running expenses. I do not wish to say anything against the policy of social security, for we have gone a long way in that direction. But if we examine the costs of all our governments, under the general heading of social security benefits, including soldiers' allowances and veterans' pensions, we will find that this country of only 14 million people is probably