

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, just before six o'clock recess I was talking about government extravagance and waste in the departments. I said that every cabinet minister should house-clean his department. I mentioned a number of departments and I shall give a few more examples of waste. War Assets Corporation is one outfit which I think should have a house-cleaning. Yesterday the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) mentioned that War Assets Corporation had 5,053 employees during the month of February, whose wages and salaries amounted to \$723,600. This is July, just four months later, and I understand that now War Assets Corporation have over 7,000 employees. I have no chance of knowing what the total salaries and wages would be, but if we take the basis of 5,053 employees receiving \$723,600 in salaries and wages the payroll to-day would be \$1,100,000 or more.

On July 3 I wrote a letter to the Toronto regional office of War Assets Corporation. This is July 11 and I have no answer. I do not know what the office staff there is doing—it may be out looking for more employees—but I know I am only one of many who have written to War Assets Corporation and have not received an answer. You get the same word from all over the country. Many people in my riding tell me that it is useless to write to War Assets Corporation. One would think that with over 7,000 employees he would get an answer some time.

Some time ago I was told by the members of the board of education in one of the large cities in Canada that they had written War Assets Corporation asking for some equipment for their schools to replace equipment that had been used during the war for vocational training. Eventually they got an answer telling them to go to a certain factory which had a nine- or ten-inch lathe—I forget the exact size—which they could have. They went to this plant the next day and told the manager that they had a letter from War Assets Corporation in regard to this lathe and had come to look at it. The manager just laughed and said, "That lathe was sold for scrap over a week ago." The same board of education had a similar experience about six months later. They went to another plant at the request of War Assets Corporation and found that the piece of equipment they were interested in had also been sold for scrap.

The Canadian information service is another outfit that should have a house-cleaning.

This outfit, along with the wartime information board, did more during the last few years to create a paper shortage than all the newspapers and publications across Canada. According to information given in the external affairs department standing committee 800,000 copies were published of one leaflet, a copy of which I hold in my hand.

This is entitled "World or war?" On the inside pages at the top is, "United nations organization". There are a number of illustrations. The first one, entitled, "Settle disputes", shows a policeman running with a baton in his hand trying to club somebody over the head. The next one is entitled "Suppress aggression", and it shows an iron heel stepping on a snake. The next one is entitled, "Develop friendly relations among nations", and it shows what is supposed to be a man with his arms around two others. No. 4 is entitled "Promote social progress", and this shows what looks like a schoolteacher teaching a class. No. 5 is entitled, "Solve international economic problems", and it shows a man without a face holding up the world. No. 6 is entitled, "Encourage respect for human rights", and it shows what looks like two men leading a drunk along the street. No. 7 is entitled, "Establish fundamental freedoms", and it shows what looks like a building at the top of a hill with a few men climbing up to the top.

Eight hundred thousand copies of that leaflet were turned out and distributed and that is only one of hundreds of different folders that those people put out. What the wartime information board costs to run per month I do not know, but for the months of October, November and December, 1945, the cost in salaries and wages alone for the Canadian information service was \$66,371.54. Your guess is as good as mine as to what it cost for paper, printing and the editing of these publications. I have a list of the publications which I can read, but with your permission, sir, I should like to place it on *Hansard*. It is as follows:

1. Publications issued by Wartime Information Board and Canadian Information Service during 1945:

Daily—

Airmail Bulletin

Weekly—

Facts and Figures

Faits et chiffres

Features for Dailies

Pour la page Feminine

Field Reports

Home Front Bulletin

Radio Service

Communiqué de la Radio

Weekly Press Service

Communiqué hebdomadaire

Weekly Press Survey