

unrestricted liberty of placing their views before parliament, and thereby, before the people of Canada.

Mr. TURGEON: Nonsense.

Mr. GREEN: Not entirely, perhaps; but everyone who is honest with himself must admit our procedure here is such that it is very difficult for a private member on the government side of the house, no matter which party might form the government, to express his opinion in the chamber. We have to consider things as they are to-day, not as they were five years ago or fifty years ago. Our present situation is that in this nineteenth parliament about two-thirds of our membership are forced to be silent.

Mr TURGEON: That is not so.

Mr. GREEN: It means, too, that about two-thirds of the ability of the house cannot be put to full use. I have said two-thirds of the ability of the house; perhaps it is more than that. I do not think so, but it is at least two-thirds of the ability of this house. And it means something still more serious. Two-thirds of the people of Canada are unable to have their views made known in this Canadian House of Commons under our present set-up.

Someone may say that if these proposals are followed, there will be an end to criticism. I suggest that if they are followed, the country need have no fear whatever of there being a lack of effective criticism in this house.

In conclusion, may I say that I realize to the full that changes of this type are difficult to make, difficult for the government, for the official opposition and for the other opposition parties. But I do throw out the challenge to hon. members. I believe that if we change our way of carrying on the government of this nation, we can gain and retain the complete confidence of the nation, just as that great man, the Right Hon. Winston Churchill has done in Great Britain. We have been elected since the war started; we have been elected to lead our people through this war, and I am convinced it can be done most efficiently by making the changes I have mentioned. And I am convinced that the effect upon the war effort of the nation and upon the spirits of our people would be astounding.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): Mr. Speaker, I had not expected to take part in the debate at this particular moment, but I believe that you and the house will agree with me when I say that the people generally, and certainly the member for Peel, are not used to such staggering appropriations as are proposed to be made by the bill to be based upon this resolution. So far as this war effort is

[Mr. Green.]

concerned, we are dealing with millions, yes, with billions, but sometimes these amounts are not reduced to figures which the average man on the back concession and on the street corner can understand. To many people the difference between a billion and a million dollars loses its significance. The bill to be presented will provide for the collection from the people of Canada and the spending of \$2,600 per minute of every working day as well as Sundays throughout the next fiscal year. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) stated that we may have to go further than that, that we may reach the staggering expenditure of \$4,200 per minute. Such figures as these give us some conception of what the war really means to every one of us.

There has been criticism in the press and throughout the country generally of the government and of the opposition parties as well. There is a duty and obligation resting upon the official opposition and the other groups opposed to the government. In order to fulfil our duties as citizens and members of parliament it seems to me that we must be relentless in our constructive criticism of the government and of the manner in which every five-cent piece is being spent in this war effort. What I say this afternoon by way of criticism of the government is simply the carrying out of what I think is the imperative obligation resting upon each one of us, whether he be a member of the government or a member of the opposition.

I ask hon. members to go back to the days when Winston Spencer Churchill was one of the leading opponents of the government in the British House of Commons. Hon. members need go back only to 1936. I dare say that there never have been uttered in this House of Commons words as condemnatory of the government as those used by Mr. Churchill in an attempt to awaken the government of Great Britain to greater action. To-day that gentleman is not a member of the opposition, he is not only the Prime Minister of Great Britain, he is the outstanding public citizen of the world at large. When we criticize the government let us always remember that we have a function to perform as watchdogs and auditors of the treasury of Canada.

What about the duty of the government? I am not suggesting that they do not conceive what their duty is, but one of their duties is an all-out prosecution of this war. Nothing less than that is good enough for Canada and the Canadian people. I implore and plead with the government, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), and those associated with him, to see that every dollar of this appropriation is sent into channels which will provide an all-embracing prosecu-