

international relations, the requirements for all of which have grown substantially since the beginning of the war.

4. As I have pointed out, the size of the servicing departments such as public works, comptroller of the treasury and the civil service commission is mathematically related to the size of the civil service as a whole.

These are but a few of the reasons that illustrate the difficulty of estimating even approximately the normal peacetime strength of the public service. The civil service will continue to be reduced on a graduated scale, largely through diminishing veterans' requirements and the final liquidation of remaining wartime departments.

In the table which I have placed on the record, showing the total number of civil servants by departments, and giving the war peak and personnel as of April 1, 1947, it will be noted that the war departments which are being consolidated or liquidated include the defence departments, which had a civilian war peak of 68,376, and today have 15,762, including army, navy, air force and inspection boards. The further war departments being liquidated include national war services, which at the war peak had a personnel of 2,041 and now has four. During the war the Department of Munitions and Supply had a peak personnel of 14,540; today the Department of Reconstruction and Supply has a personnel of 902.

Therefore I submit, Mr. Speaker, that this statement is a complete refutation of the accusation made by the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe). I suggest that the charge he made had no basis in fact, and has been entirely answered by this statement.

Mr. FRASER: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the minister said my figures were wrong but if he will look at page 29 of the estimates for 1947-48 he will see that the 1947-48 estimate for the film board is given as \$2,078,874, while the amount for 1946-47 is shown as \$1,259,465. The increase, as shown in these estimates, is \$819,409, which was the figure I gave. I want to say this is just a sample of what happens in connection with the film board.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to remind the hon. member for Peterborough West that an hon. member has not the right to speak twice on the same matter.

Mr. FLEMING: I wonder if I might ask the minister a question before he takes his seat. Has he the figure of the number of

[Mr. McCann.]

employees of boards outside the government departments, including those of crown companies?

Mr. McCANN: If I had them I would have given them.

Mr. FLEMING: Why were they not included? The figures are incomplete without them.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to take time this afternoon to reply to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann). We all listened to the presentation of a budget which had been very carefully prepared by the young and popular minister, and which has been received with applause by some and disappointment by others. However, I congratulate also the minister's predecessor, Right Hon. J. L. Ilsley, who brought in a surplus from war assets of \$372 million, and the two ministers a surplus of \$352 million.

The other evening we had a splendid reply by the financial critic of the opposition, the member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell), who was ill. As you will understand, Mr. Speaker, I am acting this afternoon in a sort of utility role, to fill in on the budget. Yesterday afternoon very little interest was taken in the debate, so much so that I thought many of the members were attending the gymnasium proposed by the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor). I thought perhaps the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) and the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains (Mr. Lacombe) might be working out on the parallel bars. However, I want to say right here and now that the speech of the minister, giving all these surveys and reports, was the usual budget statement containing very little comfort for the country. We have squandered our resources at a great rate, and as a result we are now part and parcel of the United States economic system. If history repeats itself in connection with financial matters I am afraid that before long they may be in a very difficult position, and I believe that will have a very serious effect on Canada.

Certainly after the years of war the people were looking for some relief from the present intolerable taxes, but I suppose as long as we have over-government and over-taxation there is not much hope. Look at the provincial parliaments; in my opinion they simply duplicate the municipal system, and never should have been created. They were just an afterthought in the minds of the fathers of confederation. That is why we have such heavy