

which in order to achieve victory governments and peoples were compelled to resort to measures which otherwise would not have been even contemplated. The change from a peace-time to a war economy which took place during 1939 and 1940 causes those years to stand out in bold relief, and must be remembered when we come to appraise the task that now lies before us. The united nations have won the war against great odds. They won largely because for the time being they were prepared to suspend their differences and overlook even conflicting ideologies in order to achieve a common purpose. The war was won largely because there was a determination on the part of the united nations to bring about a spirit of unity and cooperation. In this country and in this parliament, in spite of our political differences, in spite of the fact that some sit to your right, Mr. Speaker, and some to your left, as we look back over these six years of war I believe that as a people and as a parliament we may be proud of the contribution Canada has made. Canada can walk down the avenues of the world with her head high, and say to all who would look, "We are not ashamed of the contribution we have made." I think it only fair to the membership of this house that we say to those who sit opposite that the contribution of the opposition, the contribution of the government and the contribution of the people of Canada is something of which in the over-all picture, despite any differences that may have existed, we may all be proud.

That is a standard for the future. This government, faced with the tremendous responsibilities which it is assuming, can make its contribution more complete if it has the understanding and cooperation of all groups in the country and in this house. During the war that cooperation in its essentials was not lacking, and I would simply echo the hope expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) this afternoon that in the deliberations of the future we may look forward to the same understanding and the same cooperation from hon. gentlemen opposite, so that together we may give the country the lead which I know it is prepared to accept.

In that spirit, Mr. Speaker, I have risen to discuss some problems which are of more than ordinary interest to this nation at the present time. Before doing so, however, because I believe leadership in a country does mean something; because if there is not faith in the institutions of government and in the nation's public men there is bound to result a mischievous situation, might I say that it is a matter of no ordinary significance that

[Mr. Martin.]

for the fifth time in his career the present Prime Minister of Canada is charged with the responsibility of leading the government of this nation. In the history of our country few public men have been as richly endowed with the qualities of leadership which have enabled the Prime Minister to make his contribution to the progress of Canada.

In the speech from the throne an effort is made to give to Canadians generally the feeling that we belong to no mean nation. The problems that lie ahead are not going to be resolved if there is a lack of faith in ourselves or in our country. The fact is that at the end of the war we stand as one of the important nations of the world; fourth in the production of war minerals; well up as a naval and air power, and having contributed almost a million men and women to the armed services. We have a country of which we may be proud, and it is one of our responsibilities to see that Canada emerges along the lines which her greatness warrants.

It is for that reason that in the speech from the throne the government has sought to establish in the national life certain necessary symbols—symbols which will make every boy and girl and every adult in this country proud of the fact that they belong to Canada, that they belong to this nation now more than seventy-five years old, a nation which extends from sea to sea, and has not only a heritage but a future that is undoubted and unmistakable. To that end I do not think one should overlook the decision of the government to clarify and to regularize the status of Canadian citizenship, as contemplated.

We should not hesitate to acknowledge our responsibility as a member of the family of nations. But at the same time we should not hesitate to recognize the contribution this country has made throughout the war, a large contribution which has won for this nation a true certificate of nationhood. The right to be able to call ourselves citizens of Canada is one which is in keeping with our dignity, in keeping with our achievements and in keeping with our aspirations.

During the war the government has been faced with the responsibility of directing the war effort of Canada. While the war was in progress it sought to anticipate some of the problems that would face us in the period of reconversion, and in that longer post-war period. We were in no different position from that of other countries of the world. All one has to do is to read the newspapers and the reviews to see that the problems now facing us are the problems which are facing governments in other parts of the world. The prob-

lems facing us at this time are problems which are facing other governments with different social and economic ideologies. This seems the best proof that, no matter what one's basic political and social policy may be, one does not escape the mischief of the kind of problems with which, in this day, governments have to cope.

The government's plan of social security is one which is closely related to the present situation. It was this government which brought in the scheme of old age pensions, and it was this government which only recently made a proposal to make certain extensions in the old age pensions provision.

Our family allowances scheme, accepted in this house with only one dissentient, represents a forward measure which, in terms of public investment will result in an expenditure of \$250 million a year, distributed among our people, particularly to the people who need assistance. This is indeed a form of public investment which one cannot look upon as only an idle gesture, but rather as one which has a definite relationship to some of the programmes upon which hon. members who have taken part thus far in the debate have suggested we must enter.

Unemployment insurance, introduced by the present government in 1941, at a time when the nations on our side were not certain of victory, when the problems of war were extremely difficult and hazardous, has resulted in the creation of a fund of a little less than \$300 million. This was not offered as a means to cure, but as a means of relieving those who found themselves unemployed. Despite what one may think as to its inadequacy, it is a measure which has gained an important function in our current situation.

The whole problem of reconversion, not without its difficulties, and not without creating its surpluses of man-power here and there—and I prefer to approach the problem squarely and factually—has had a real measure of success. In the language of the *Economist* of only two weeks ago our reconversion plans have been stamped by those associated with that responsible publication as being among the foremost and most responsible of those of any of the united nations.

While the war was on, in many plants we tapered off gradually to meet the problems which now face us. I am frank to admit that difficulties attend other countries, as well as our own; and the fact that we have now in a number of localities a situation of surplus labour is perhaps not all that one might desire. But in the light of the transfer from a war-time to a peace-time economy, no man in his

right senses, attributing to governments all the frailties of human nature could expect that the situation would be basically otherwise. The fact is that this situation is true of other countries in the world. One has but to read the figures respecting reconversion in the Soviet Union, in Great Britain and in the United States, to realize that fact. I mention this, not to criticize their government, but to indicate the immensity and universal seriousness of the problem.

The government has not proceeded planlessly. The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), in his excellent contribution to the debate to-day, spoke about the desirability of planning. Well, planning in the sense of trying to be able to create a formula which will meet every situation, may be possible; but that kind of plan, in my judgment, would compromise something in which I know the hon. member is as much interested as I am, namely, man's most treasured right to human liberty.

The government to-day must, of course, plan. Planning, in the sense of preparation, planning in the sense of spending hours of study, hours of research, hours of blue-printing and all that sort of thing, are necessary to-day. That sort of thing, sir, is going on and has been going on in this country. One has only to examine the briefs submitted by this government at the preliminary conference held a short time ago between the dominion and the provincial governments to obtain evidence of the fact. I venture to suggest that the voluminous reports which are in the nature of briefs presented by this government to the provincial governments for their consideration, have, perhaps because of their voluminous character, not yet fully impressed themselves upon the membership of the house.

Those who have studied those reports, those who have written about them—and I am not referring to anything of a partisan nature—have referred to them as perhaps the most important and significant proposals made by any country of the united nations since near the end of the war.

Those proposals, in the provisions they make for social security, and in the provision they set up for adjustment of the relationships between the dominion and the provincial governments, along with the plans to meet the objective of high employment, are significant and represent in the fullest sense of the word the effort of this government to prepare and to plan for the challenging period that lies ahead. It does not help the situation very much to suggest that the government has no plan. The government has plans and a large part of those plans is embodied in the