

the land should study this report, because it is in this way that the report can make its greatest contribution to the people of Canada.

Honourable members, at this time I should like to pay a special compliment to the chairman of our committee (Hon. Mr. Crerar).

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I have known the honourable gentleman for a long time. We both come from the same province, and I have known him as a citizen, a businessman, a politician, a Cabinet Minister, a member of the House of Commons and a member of the Senate. And he runs true to form in every place you put him. What makes the committee's report so valuable, so very valuable, is the co-operation that he, and he alone, received not only from civil servants but from members of the government whom he asked to assist us by giving us information. Throughout our inquiry I found no evidence of any attempt by anyone to prevent civil servants from telling us exactly the facts in the case under study. I give the government credit for that, but I give the main credit to my honourable friend, because after having served as a minister of the Crown in Canada for many years he has left on the civil service the impression that he is a gentleman and can be trusted. That was a feeling I had throughout our inquiry. Whenever any civil servant was asked to give evidence before our committee he felt safe, realizing that the chairman would not allow a witness to be put in a false position because of anything he might say to us.

Secondly, I wish to pay tribute not only to the main committee itself, which performed a good service, but to my fellow members of the steering committee. One danger, as I see it, is that members of the public who read the committee's proceedings and report might have the idea that our questions and suggestions reflected some political leaning or bias. To show how unfounded this idea is, I am going to outline how the steering committee worked. It is not necessary for me to name its members. We had a large number of meetings, five members being present, and at each one there was a frank discussion of the subjects being considered.

First we met to decide what we should try to do. Opinions were expressed by everybody, and finally we came to unanimous agreement on the ideas that we would try to get over in our report. From time to time we met to decide whether we should call this witness or that, whether we should follow up the evidence along some certain line; and sometimes, honourable senators, it took a couple of hours to get those five hard-headed people to agree on these points. But in the end we always

did agree. When we came to the work of drafting a report, each of us brought to the meeting his own ideas and suggestions of what the report should contain, and eventually we reached a unanimous conclusion on the whole matter. Some people may think that that was not a big job. But I assure you, honourable senators, that it was. We wanted the report to be an expression to the people of what the Senate thinks about present conditions, not only in Canada, including its provinces and municipalities, but in the world itself. Whether we accomplished that or not is for the house to say.

When we had brought all our suggestions together and agreed upon which of them should be incorporated in the report, we then asked the chairman to draft a preliminary report. After this was done, we asked one of our members, who was formerly a well-known newspaper man, to give the report a little newspaper touch. He took it away, and in two or three days or so brought it back with certain suggested changes; and then we redrafted the report. After that we had another meeting, and for two solid hours we went over the redrafted report, line by line, section by section, deleting words here and adding them there as we thought necessary. All members of the steering committee were present, as they had been at all meetings, except in one or two unavoidable instances; I know that at least three of us were present at every meeting. Then after we had finally agreed upon our final report it was submitted to the main committee, which, after making a few changes, unanimously concurred in the document that is now before the Senate.

To the newspaper editors of Canada, to the principals of our universities and of our high schools and public schools, to all people interested in and concerned with education in Canada, I say that a reading of the committee's report will give an up-to-date picture of the financial situation in the municipal, provincial and federal fields of this country. Anyone who wishes to understand our financial position may do so by reading the report.

I agree with all that was said by the chairman of the committee, the senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), about the present world situation. I am persuaded—and I say this because it is awfully close to my heart—that the Russian leaders believe they can conquer us by worrying us and causing us to overburden our industries and economy until we use up our resources; in short, that they can out-wait us and defeat us without having to fire a gun. I say that because of what they have done in the Far East. Their policy is to get somebody else to fight their