

be useful in their reestablishing themselves in civil life. But nothing has been done about the requests which have been made by the minister's colleagues in the cabinet and by others in the past few days, the past few months and the past few years. Let me repeat that the minister's colleagues assured us as far back as 1942 that these priorities would be granted.

This certainly is a big job. The minister and his department would more than earn the gratitude of this country if they did a proper job in dismantling the war set-up and thus save millions, if not billions of money for the taxpayers of Canada. This job of reconversion will be a tremendous one. I am sorry to have to say that there is unemployment in many cities throughout this country, despite the promises that were made to the people a few months ago. Provincial and municipal governments have been preparing plans for the post-war, but they have now been told by the federal government that nothing of that kind will be done until there is a depression. That may be good business but, as my colleague so well pointed out, it will require a minister with a gigantic imagination, one who is able to work out proper plans for the future of this country.

The leader of the Social Credit group referred to-night to the mechanized labour which will displace thousands of our workmen. That should demonstrate to the minister and the members of this committee the thinking and planning that need to be done in this country for many weeks and months in the future.

It is an idle gesture to say that this one department can dismantle the war effort of the Department of Munitions and Supply and also give proper consideration to the setting up of a Department of Reconstruction and Supply. Divide the two and give a new and younger minister charge of it, a man with imagination, a man who probably has had some experience as to what requires to be done. I am inclined to think that for the next eighteen months or two years we shall have a most uncertain period. I would hope that this bill would be reconsidered by the minister and his colleagues. No attempt should be made to pass it at this time. There is no matter which is entitled to as much consideration as this Department of Reconstruction. I am sure it will be called upon in the months and years ahead to do more for the welfare of the people of Canada than any other department of government. I trust that before this department is set up, the minister will come to an early decision on

these two points which are of great interest to many people from coast to coast in Canada and that he will let the people know what his decision is.

Mr. MacINNIS: I think the committee will agree with the statements made by the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario and the hon. member for Souris as to the urgent need for a Department of Reconstruction for the serious days that are ahead. But after we have agreed on that, I find great difficulty in understanding the position of the hon. gentleman, for they have been shouting for the past eight or nine months for the removal of all controls and for the government to get out of business. Now, however, they are insisting on a Department of Reconstruction, and surely a Department of Reconstruction will have to concern itself with business. So that their two attitudes just do not make sense. I suggest that it is not only the Minister of Reconstruction who needs time off in order to think but that my two hon. friends should take time off in order to think and clarify their minds on this important matter.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I have been perfectly consistent on this matter.

Mr. MacINNIS: If my hon. friend has been consistent on this matter, he is certainly not being consistent in sitting where he is now.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Oh, yes.

Mr. MacINNIS: Not at all because, if that is his thinking, he is quite out of line with the thinking of those among whom he is sitting.

Mr. POULIOT: He does not think at all.

Mr. MacINNIS: I rather agree with the hon. member for Temiscouata, if we never agree on anything else.

Mr. POULIOT: Then you must be entirely wrong.

Mr. MacINNIS: That may be true.

I do not know that the great amount of work which this new department will involve, together with the considerable amount of work there is still to do in the Department of Munitions and Supply, will necessitate the appointment of a new minister. I do not know; I think we shall have to wait and see, provided that the present minister wants to take on the job. It seems to me that he is a hog for work, and perhaps it is best for us to let him do it. We have learned from big business to-day that efficiency is not so much a matter of the man at the head doing everything himself as it is his ability to appoint capable people to whom he can assign the work of his department. If the minister is