

unsuccessfully to control business over there, but what are they doing now? The House of Lords has passed a bill called the Pre-War Trade Practices Act to put the small retailer and the small wholesaler back to where they were before and give them a chance to live. The legislation was initiated in the British House of Commons and is now law.

I am a Conservative and have never been anything else, but I tell you this, Mr. Chairman, that the financial system of this country has never been tested as it is being tested now. I am a believer in sound money, but there is no such thing as sound money when Hitler is at the gate. Right is might, is the old saying, but might plus right is right. This budget in itself will do quite a bit to shoot holes through the attempt to check inflation, and inflation is a danger; but by using wrong methods we are defeating its uses and objectives.

National currency has been mentioned. I do not believe that the Bank of Canada is doing what it should do in this war. It could handle lots of this control business without any cost to the taxpayer, instead of the prices and other boards opening up offices all over Canada, with a useless duplication of services by a lot of figureheads, because that is what many of them are. I see some of their work in the riding in which I live. You cannot get a prescription refilled at a drug store. I have had throat trouble for three weeks, and I could not get a prescription refilled at a drug store, without a new prescription, simply because of this control policy in connection with the retail trade. I tried to get information in the Toronto district about this from one of the department store chiefs who are serving two spheres and two masters in helping to administer this control system, but he referred me to the chairman who would not even reply. You cannot get goods delivered now by a store unless you buy a dollar's worth, but often you have to spend \$2 to \$2.25 on goods you do not want, in order to get deliveries, and a large number of children who used to deliver parcels from drug stores have been put out of work. That is the kind of control and inflation that goes on unchecked, and then you talk about control.

If a committee of ways and means went into this budget they would find, on checking it over, that half or a third of the money that is to be raised by it will not amount to a snap of the finger in beating Hitler.

We could not qualify as a country under the lease-lend bill, under which help is being given to Greece, Australia, part of France and many other countries. Is there any reason why we should not qualify? After

Dunkirk, for two years the British fleet protected the shores of America, and we could have qualified under the lease-lend bill for a large part of the capital expenditure that is being made. If we were to count up what we are spending to protect America's shores, if she is attacked, the defence board's work was very largely wasted.

Then we have useless embassies, and publicity departments in the United States that are not worth a 5-cent piece. Britain put on a publicity campaign for nearly two hundred years to win over the United States, yet before Pearl Harbour she was the worst hated nation in the world by a section of the people in that country. Had it not been for Pearl Harbour, they would be isolationist yet, and they had the protection of the British fleet for two years, or they, as well as Canada would have had to settle with the axis powers long before this. I have a great admiration for the people of the United States, but I do object to one dollar being spent over there on publicity. It is not necessary. I object to any waste of money on useless publicity and information bureaux in Canada and the United States. No reasonable economy is being practised by the government. On the contrary big-stick methods and scarecrow armaments are being used on the people of this country daily by controllers of all kinds, many of whom talk nonsense with useless duplication and waste.

We in the opposition—I speak for myself—might be better employed if we were offering some constructive criticism of this budget. This budget aims at a socialist state. We over here should show a better understanding of our needs and should tell the country that this is not a budget to win the war but to destroy the present basis of our society. The people of Canada would not object, no matter how heavily they were taxed, if the money was going to the war and to beat Hitler. Our hearts may be sound, but our heads must be weak if we do not criticize this budget. In the long run the whole of Canada will suffer severely from this budget—trade and commerce, the farmer, the retailer, the artisan and everybody else—for years to come.

The income tax schedules are not what they should be, and there are many inequalities. The rich man will be reduced to nothing, and the retailer and the wholesaler will be put out of business. As for the ordinary men like the rest of us we shall have to pay the charges. People will have to get rid of their homes because they will not be able to pay the local taxation, heavy interest charges, insurance premiums and all the rest of it, and the result of it will be ruin in the end unless the