

Now, as to the futile attempts by members of the other House to secure information from the Government, I would point out this other fundamental fact: the war is being conducted by what, without offence, can be called a hard-shell partisan Government, a Government that recognizes party, party, party first, and then the war.

In the 1940 general election over 2,000,000 of the electorate voted against this Government, and every man and woman of those voters, if above ground to-day, would rush to vote against it again, and their number would be tremendously reinforced. Those 2,000,000 Canadians have no representation in this Government at all. It is a party Government, and the members who represent those 2,000,000 voters fail to get the information they seek, because the Government will not give it to them, and, further, because the war is managed in the East Block and in the party caucus.

I do not know how it is with honourable members on the Government side, but we on this side cannot find out anything from the Government in relation to Canada's war effort. If you ask any question, the Government simply tells you, "Oh, it is not in the public interest to answer the question." The position is hopeless, and I have given up asking for information. I presume that in caucus the Government gives its followers information on Canada's war effort. But the door is shut against the poor, derelict 2,000,000 Canadians scattered all over this Dominion, and represented by a few members in the House of Commons and by some of our newspapers. All we can do is to look around and learn a little by observation.

I have been interested in cargo-shipbuilding ever since the war began. As honourable members know, and as has been pointed out by my honourable friend the leader on this side, shipping conditions to-day are a hundred times worse than they were at the beginning of 1941. In a sentence, they are deplorable. We have not sufficient ships, and as a consequence our ports are crammed with goods. Obviously there is something wrong with that situation. I am credibly informed that as far back as 1937 certain persons friendly to the Government, after earnestly studying world conditions were satisfied, as were many other people, that war was coming with certainty. Before the Prime Minister went to London to attend the Imperial Conference they urged him to keep in mind the difficulties of the last war, and to endeavour, even if he could not get co-operation in regard to our Navy, at any rate to get co-operation with

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regard to the construction of cargo-shipping. My information is that he referred the matter to another member of his Government, and that gentleman was not interested. The Prime Minister went to the Imperial Conference, but took no action along the lines suggested. Honourable members will recall that on his return to Canada the Prime Minister issued a printed statement in which he described his attendance at the Imperial Conference and, in a self-satisfying paragraph, declared that he had made no commitments on the part of Canada. That was the attitude and the policy of the Government in 1937.

Any person who has access to authentic information with regard to Australia, which was also represented at that Imperial Conference, will know that when its representatives returned home the Commonwealth Government began vigorous preparations for war, by the building of ships and the production of guns, aircraft and munitions, so that by 1939 it was well advanced for the crisis that confronted it. Contrast the policy of the Australian Government with that of our Prime Minister. He comes back to Canada and with great complacency says, "We made no commitments for Canada." No commitments! The only commitment really made between 1935 and 1938 was when \$60,000,000 or more was handed over to the then Minister of National Defence. That money was spent, but no man ever saw anything for it in the way of military improvements. No wonder that in 1939 we found ourselves at the very beginning of preparations for war.

Though it is of no use for us without information to attempt to roam over this Bill, we should all be gratified that the people, no matter whether they voted for or against this Government, have displayed a splendid spirit of contribution in money and services, so that Parliament votes without a grumble every dollar the Government asks for. When appeals are made for loans the people flock in and provide the funds that are called for, and the purchase of war savings certificates and war savings stamps goes on every day. The people are all for a total war effort, and they want to be led that way.

But they are not being led that way. The leader does not catch up. The situation reminds me of a little story I heard one time about the Duke of Wellington. He was not always in high favour in London, and a mob of people were rushing to his house, tearing up the paving stones on the way, as honourable senators will remember, to break the windows. An observer, seeing an oldish man