

report. When that conference failed, under the stress of wartime needs this government began a surreptitious attack on the provinces to force transfer of taxation powers from the provinces to the dominion. They called the attack "taxation transfer agreements", but actually the provinces were put into the position of having to accept the dominion's proposal, "or else". Many of us said at that time that we would bet our shirts there would be a serious effort made by Ottawa to render the so-called temporary arrangement a permanent one, for we recognized the centralization policy which the government was following. It was only too obvious that though the Prime Minister had given much evidence of favouring fundamental reform of the financial system he was not able to get into office a Minister of Finance to support him in his desires. Rather, each finance minister in his turn preferred to juggle taxation fields, as if that could possibly by itself make available more money with which the various governments could run their business. Surely it must have been obvious all these years that it is the same people who are taxed, whether by province or dominion alone or by both in their own spheres, and it must also have been obvious that there is a limit beyond which we cannot go in heaping tax burdens upon our people. However, in spite of all that has been said about it, we now behold another attempt by this government to arrogate to the dominion, taxation authorities which belong by right to the provinces. This is another step toward centralization of power, which if carried into effect, will topple and destroy the last remaining columns of true democracy. No wonder many people think centralization inevitable.

I need only mention such things as selective service, compulsory unemployment insurance, compulsory health insurance schemes, Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods, to further impress upon the people of Canada additional evidences of the trend of this government's mental drift. And I say with all the gravity at my command that centralization is not inevitable. Centralization is the very antithesis of true democracy. There are better ways of solving our problems, ways that will preserve the individual freedom of Canadians. I come of English stock on my mother's side and of stubborn Scottish in my father's line. One of my direct ancestors was among those who dipped quills and signed with their own blood a document resisting the centralizing encroachments of King Charles I. Perhaps that explains why I am a reformer. And now every drop of the blood of my ancestors cries out in me to resist to the utmost extent of my strength

the Liberal government's policy of centralization of powers. I call upon all Canadians who are determined to preserve and apply in Canada, the principles of Christian democracy to contend against this dangerous policy of totalitarian centralization and to root it out of our national life forever.

Mr. Speaker, if it is your pleasure that we should now call it six o'clock perhaps you might follow the example in reverse of Joshua.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

### After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. LOW: Mr. Speaker, when the recess was called I was dealing with the problem of centralization. I should like now to turn for just a few moments to another important matter which is closely allied with centralization and which is of grave concern to the people of this land; I refer to the matter of taxation. My search in the throne speech failed to disclose any intention of the government to set about a reduction of the tremendous tax burden under which Canadians have been staggering these past years.

Many of us had hopes that, with the cessation of hostilities and with the consequent relaxation of serious war necessities, we might expect at least a start this session in the scaling down of taxation. Our hopes were somewhat encouraged by reports from Australia of a 12½ per cent reduction in personal income taxes and in a lowering of sales tax over quite a wide range of materials. It seems evident now, however, that we cannot expect a similar move by this government, at least at an early date. I am not unmindful at all of the substantial commitments already made by the present administration to meet post-war needs. With many of these commitments I find myself in substantial agreement. But here again I fear that the government have become confirmed victims of an inevitability complex, as if there were no better and other ways of meeting their commitments than by continuing to heap intolerable burdens of taxation upon the people.

If one takes the trouble to study the history of taxation in this country as well as in all other countries operating under the same vicious system of debt financing, he will find that the tax burdens have increased consistently decade after decade, through good times and bad, and through peace times as well as war times. I would not be so much concerned