Then we have the League of Nations, that brain-child of a United States college professor which was dumped on the doorstep of Great Britain and her allies at the close of the last war and then was disowned by its creator. Both of those institutions were, and still are free from national bias. Their policy is to get every nation into debt with equal impartiality. One in particular is working secretly and guards its workings most jealously from prying minds. The League of Nations was the international instrument by which reconstruction loans at usurious rates of interest were fastened upon many of the small nations of Europe. One example is the League of Nations loan to Austria. This allowed for a premium on redemption and yielded a rate of approximately eight and a half per cent per annum although it was soundly secured and internationally guaranteed. The second instance is the League of Nations loan to Hungary which carried a rate of nearly 9¼ per cent per annum. The objective of the loans was to keep those countries under an orthodox economy, to keep them permanently enslaved under a debt system. Similar loans were made to Greece and Bulgaria.

For a few moments I should like to turn my attention nearer home. As I have said, these world planners are endeavouring to take powers away from the local governments and centralize them in one central authority. They work on the premise that nine wrongs make a right. They believe that if one man the worse of liquor is not able to reach his home safely, then nine men the worse of liquor will be able to get home all right provided they are tied together. They believe that if you take the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the others, all of which are loaded heavily with debt, and bring them under the control of a central government in Ottawa, all their worries will be at an end and their debt problems will be solved. These planners forget that the central government in Ottawa has balanced its budget only fifteen times in seventy-five years. Debt has been piled up in sixty years out of the seventy-five to the stage where it now threatens to engulf us.

I am not convinced, therefore, that the way to solve any problem is to make it larger. There are certain definite limits beyond which one's faith cannot go.

What is the strategy of these bureaucrats? First of all, this government set up the Sirois commission which brought in a report that, had it been adopted, would have centralized all authority in Ottawa. Fortunately for the people of Canada that report was rejected, not by the people themselves, it is true, but by their elected representatives. It is "only in times of war or under threat of war that the Canadian government will embark upon large-scale planning."

The first step taken in Canada during the war was to saddle the Canadian people with an unemployment insurance scheme. This scheme was pronounced economically sound by one expert actuary, but it was declared to be economically unsound by another. The bill was passed in 1941, a war year. I contend that that bill would never have been put upon the statute books during years of peace. Unemployment insurance flourishes in times of war and in years of prosperity, but it bogs down in times of peace and in years of depression. That has been the experience in Great Britain, and that is why a commission was appointed to find out what could be done to tie together all the various schemes in order to make them work. That was the first step in this programme of centralization.

We come now to the next step. We are asked to adopt a national health scheme. In the last speech I made in this house on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, I prophesied that a plan of social security had already been formulated and that it would be brought out and presented for approval at the proper time. I was not surprised, therefore, to read in the *Financial Post* of February 27, 1943, right on the front page, under the heading "Social security report ready" the following:

> Canada's first attempt at a pre-Beveridge report—the study on social security for Canada in terms of post-war planning—is now in the Prime Minister's hands, the ***Financial Post*** is informed.
>
> The report covers some 150 pages and will presumably be available to the newly-formed parliamentary committee on social security and the parliamentary committee on reconstruction.
>
> Prepared in less than two months, it has been turned out under the direction of the James committee on post-war reconstruction.
>
> The report is intended as an educational document showing the background and present position of social security legislation and planning in Canada, and to indicate what would be required in respect of a comprehensive social security programme for Canada.

What is the use of setting up a committee if the plans are already cut-and-dried? All that we shall be asked to do is to give our approval to them and then they will be turned over to the publicity boys to sell them to the general public. This government, prodded by bureaucracy, appears to be determined to preserve the old order even though it means centralization and regimentation.

I should like now to direct the attention of members of the house and of members of the