

Many of these people in business cannot even make an assignment. I heard someone say that there are fewer assignments to-day than there were a few years ago, but the only reason for that is that many of these business men are in such bad condition that the trustee or assignee will not undertake the job because he is not sure of getting his money for looking after the estate.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to have to notify the hon. member that his time has expired.

Mr. SPENCE: It is not often that I take up the time of the house in saying anything.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. SPEAKER: With the unanimous consent of the house.

Mr. SPENCE: The hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh), for whom I have a great deal of regard and who is a personal friend of mine, has on the order paper another motion with regard to a new Canadian flag. At a previous session he was good enough to withdraw a similar motion. This is a trivial thing to bring up to-day when world conditions are what they are, when we have so many international troubles with which to deal. The hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Lacroix) also has on the order paper a resolution asking that the word "viceroy" be substituted for "governor general", and that the name of this country should be the "Kingdom of Canada" instead of the "Dominion of Canada." What a lot of nonsense taking up the time of this house with resolutions of that kind! I cannot understand why hon. members put motions like that on the order paper. It is such motions that create unrest, disunity and misunderstanding. I do not suppose the hon. members I have named intended that their resolutions should have that effect, but I think all hon. members should use better judgment in these times of trouble and tribulation. I appeal to both hon. members to withdraw their motions in the interests of this house and this country.

Some hon. members advocate reduction of taxes. They say that the sales tax should be eliminated; that the stamp tax should be discontinued and that other taxes should be wiped out. Then, before they sit down, they advocate the granting of more money to the provinces and the municipalities. How do they suppose the government is going to get money when all taxes are eliminated? You can get only what you take from the people, and no

[Mr. Spence.]

government can be blamed for that. Personally I should like to see all nuisance taxes abolished. I hate having to put a three or a six-cent stamp on every cheque I write.

My contention is that every effort should be made to study possible means of economizing. I have had to economize all my life. There was no other way in which I could get along. Economy should be studied in every branch of the service. The cost of administration in this House of Commons is entirely too high. A business administrator could save possibly hundreds of thousands of dollars in running this house, but he would not be very popular. It would be pretty difficult to practise economy around here.

The number of publications issued by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Euler) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) should be curtailed. Thousands of publications are sent out through the country, when, I should imagine, hundreds would do. What happens to them after they are sent out? The mail men in the city of Toronto and other centres are getting humps on their backs from the loads they have to carry. Much of the stuff sent out from this house and from the different departments is simply carried in through the front-door, possibly kept about fifteen minutes, and then sent out through the back. These publications are simply a waste of good paper and good printing. I said the same thing to the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell) when he was Minister of Agriculture, but he did not agree with me. He felt that the publications sent out by his department were more important than those sent out by the Department of Trade and Commerce. Each department feels that its publications are very necessary.

Hon. members and others outside the house have been kicking about the cost of government, but no one has had the back-bone to suggest what should be done to reduce this cost. I would start with this house. If the British North America Act would allow it, I would cut the membership from 245 members to 150. The membership of the provincial legislatures should be cut in half, if not eliminated altogether. The number of county councils could be reduced, although I sometimes think these county councils are of more value to the country than the provincial legislatures. I know quite a bit about county councils.

An hon. MEMBER: How about the senate?

Mr. SPENCE: I am not talking about the senate because it is out of my jurisdiction. I do not know whether my suggestions will