Prime Minister's Speech on Address

Bureaucracy

File 5 60829

"Many ... ministers are working to the limit of their capacity. But that large part of their work beyond their capacity, the government, by order in council, has delegated, in many cases without essential democratic restrictions and controls, to a huge and growing bureaucracy .... the usurping of these powers by bureaucracy is the negation of responsible government." (Mr. John Bracken, December 21, 1942)

- 1. On so-called question of "bureaucracy" the official Opposition and the financial press have completely reversed their position.
  - In 1940 they were demanding a non-political and independent "business" direction for the whole war production programme. In other words, the so-called "bureaucrats" were to be completely free from responsibility to the government and the Parliament.
  - (b) In 1942 and 1943, they are claiming that the government has handed control over to the so-called "bureaucrats" (exactly what they asked for two years ago) and they are now demanding more control by "politicians" for that is what responsible government means.

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