

easy for Mr. de Valera. The extremists in his party would raise the cry against him in days to come that he had brought back the British to Ireland. That theory would not be valid if he leased his bases to Canada, because no one can doubt that Canada would fulfil not only the letter but the spirit of the lease, and withdraw at the close of the war.

I do not think there is anything impracticable about the suggestion. It is important; it is pressing, and every avenue for its adoption should be explored in the common interests of all concerned. The suggestion is worth more than a trial; it should be pressed to fruition. More than that, may I make the further suggestion that if in approaching Mr. de Valera Canada finds opposition, it should enlist in such an effort, and I have no doubt would receive, the warm and sympathetic cooperation of the government of the United States.

Whatever may have been the attitude of Canada toward Ireland in the past, there can be no doubt that in days gone by a substantial element in the United States stood by the people of Ireland and gave material help and contributed in no small degree to the goal of Irish freedom. The support and sympathy and active aid of the United States should be enlisted. The problem must be solved, and it must be solved by peaceful negotiation. I suggest that here is an opportunity for this government to render a real service to the allied cause at a time when the submarine menace bears heavily upon our position.

May I bring to the attention of the Minister of National Defence a matter which is of some importance to the members of our armed forces. I want to make a plea on their behalf. I understand that the request has been made to the government that free transportation should be provided at the expense of the treasury for those entitled to what is known as the long leave or furlough. I am informed that this request has been made already, and refused. I hope the latter part of my information is not true. No doubt the matter is a difficult one, but I ask the government to reconsider its position and yield what is considered to be a right on the part of these men and their relatives. Home is sweet to all of us, but how much sweeter it must be to our volunteers who have been absent for six months or more, perhaps in an ancient colony or on one of the islands of the sea? There is a sentiment about this which just cannot be ignored. If the government will not yield, there will be much heartburning in Canada. We pay the entire cost of the transportation of the thirty-day trainees to and from the

training camps. That is right and proper. I simply urge the government to pay the transportation of those on furlough. I am informed that this was done during the last war.

Mr. RALSTON: I may say to my hon. friend that that is not true.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I stand corrected, but I was told that by a gentleman who served in the last war and who ought to know. If these men, some of whom have been absent from their homes in Canada for months in places distant two thousand or three thousand miles, are not given the necessary assistance, they cannot possibly make the trip home. I beg of the government that it reconsider its position and if at all possible yield to what seems to me to be a very human and, may I add, reasonable request.

I do not think that I should be doing my duty if I did not make some reference to finance. When the Minister of National Defence was Minister of Finance he brought down a budget providing for ordinary expenditures of about \$477 million, which expenditures I think could have been materially reduced. He budgeted for war expenditures of over \$900 million, a total of nearly \$1,400 million. I am told that the daily war expenditures, which of course are in addition to the ordinary expenditures, are now approaching \$3,000,000. The revenue from taxation is about \$750 million, which is based upon a national income of \$4,500 million. This would appear to be an over-estimate when we consider that we cannot sell our wheat and other field crops which form the major part of our normal production. This deficit of \$600 million must be taken care of by borrowing.

We have had two war loans. The first war loan of \$200 million was over-subscribed by fifty per cent in three days. The second war loan of \$300 million was subscribed for only after three weeks, and then under pressure.

Mr. ILSLEY: Under two weeks.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I think it was longer than that; my recollection is that it was three weeks. However, that does not matter. We do know that the second war loan was a flop.

Mr. ILSLEY: No.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It was a flop; I do not care what the minister says. I have been out through the country and I know what the people think about it. What were the causes for the failure of this second war loan? I am trying to help the minister, if he only knew it.