

to the minister and it is sound advice. The minister contributed some advice for the businessmen. He urged them to do everything to hold prices down and get volume up. That is as far as the minister went; that is where he missed the boat. He should have spoken to a wider audience, he should have spoken to labour and given them some hope of an increased "take-home pay". The businessmen cannot do everything, but incentive can and there is no incentive in this budget.

Labour is the vital factor, often the dominant factor in determining prices. The attitude of labour and its leaders will have much to do in determining whether prices are kept down to reasonable levels. The attitude of labour will be the determining factor to a great extent on the action taken by this government in the way of tax relief now, not next year. What is the other factor? It is the consuming public. Already there are signs that the consuming public is far from satisfied with either the flow or the quality of goods which are at present being produced.

We may see again a repetition of what happened after the last war when the public went on a buying strike. Of necessity that was a detriment to business, a detriment to labour and a detriment to everybody else. A depression followed, and this may be the result of a budget that is timid as far as taxation is concerned. The budget is too little, too late. The ministers and their advisers could not make up their minds whether to pep up or pep down business. This is just another example of government policy—too little, too late.

We can see the results of this high taxation, both personal and corporation, upon the production of houses for the veterans of this war. Material is in short supply because there is no incentive to produce. Labour has no incentive to work beyond a certain number of hours a week because of the small amount of extra "take-home pay". What further folly is proposed? To my mind, this is just silly. I do not know who thought this up. When production is so necessary it is proposed that where a husband and wife are working, everything that the wife makes over \$250 must be taken from the exemption of the husband. Those are the exemptions proposed, although it is true that they will apply for only three months of next year.

Most things are in short supply to-day, but there is something else that is very necessary and we have it if only we will take advantage of it. There is a tremendous potential buy-

[Mr. D. G. Ross.]

ing power among the Canadian people, and certainly the incentive to produce should be provided.

One word about the housing situation. There is no doubt about it that as far as overcrowding in my riding in Toronto is concerned, it is the direct responsibility of this government. I have pointed out, time after time in this house, what would happen, and I suggested precisely that which did happen in regard to the obvious increase in the number of employees at Malton and the people on the outskirts of the city. I pointed out that there were upwards of 25,000 workers alone who had to be housed, not taking into consideration their dependents. Not only do these people have to travel from twenty to twenty-five miles to and from work every day, but the situation is so serious in that city, and more especially in my riding, that efforts should have been made to meet the housing shortage. Wartime housing was put up in other towns and cities, but we never got a five-cent piece unless we yelled for it. The people occupying wartime houses in other cities and towns are still occupying them. I submit that wartime houses should have been put up in the proximity of these plants; but, time after time, when I questioned the Minister of Munitions and Supply as to what he would do to relieve the situation, in view of the fact that these people had done the best they could, I got no satisfactory reply. We have a situation of overcrowding which is, to use a slang phrase, like nobody's business—fifty-three people living in one house, and all that sort of thing. As a matter of fact, I am sick and tired of talking about it, because nothing has been done to improve matters. There has been a lot of talk about what will be done, but that does not provide houses. When I brought the seriousness of this situation to the attention of the Minister of Munitions and Supply the answer I received was that Toronto ought to look after its own housing.

I now come to another important matter and that is economy, and the inability of the ministry to cope with necessary economy after the war. Some figures have been quoted as to the total number of employees of the government of Canada, including employees of boards and commissions appointed as of March 31, 1945, and March 31, 1946, and also as to salaries, wages and allowances paid to such employees in the month of March of each of those years. I want it distinctly understood that I am not talking about the regular civil service but about boards, commissions and so on. These figures are derived from sessional paper 98 and a sessional paper