

has given continued adequate direction and driving force to the work of that department. It has drifted along, and one result is that the personnel has increased from 10,800 to 10,900. What I have said of that department applies also to the Department of Transport. It is not fair to ask the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) to administer also the Department of Transport. The government has been lax in not placing at the head of the latter department a minister who can give it all his attention. Its importance in these difficult days need not be emphasized. As the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) said a few days ago, in that department or somewhere in the government service there should be a traffic manager to control the work of transport and give right of way to all activities having to do with the furtherance of our war effort.

There will be a vacancy shortly for a Minister of Finance. I hope that a man with some vision and initiative, one who realizes the difficult position we are in, will take charge of that department immediately the present minister vacates it. He has done a splendid job of work as far as he has gone, although, as I intimated in my earlier remarks, in my opinion he has not gone far enough.

I hope that the Prime Minister will carry out the pledge he gave to this house two or three nights ago when he said that his administration was a truly national government inasmuch as it represented 180 of the constituencies in Canada. He went further and declared that any constructive suggestion from any part of the house would be given serious consideration by the government, and that in this time of stress and strain this truly national government would give effect to worthwhile suggestions no matter where they might come from. Well, I suggest that the summary of other moneys that could be raised in Canada be given consideration by the government.

I make another suggestion. If it were possible to take a secret ballot of the members of this house, if it were possible for the members to divorce themselves entirely from any influence whatever, for example, from the liquor interests in relation to the liquor tax suggestions that I have made, from the packing industry in relation to the traffic in vegetable oil and the suggestions I have made in that regard, from the gasoline interests of Canada in relation to the suggestions I have made on that subject—if it were possible, I say, for all hon. members in this house to dissociate themselves entirely from these several interests and to take an independent view of, and give a secret ballot on, these questions and on the question of the sales

[Mr. J. H. Harris.]

tax exemptions and the exemptions in connection with income tax, then, if my judgment in these summaries did not carry two-thirds of the considered opinion of this honourable assembly, I misjudge the feelings of hon. members during this difficult time.

When the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ralston) moves over to his new position as Minister of National Defence, he will face a difficult task. I presume the Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power) will have a department entirely his own, and I do not know whether he will be answerable to the Minister of National Defence. Whether he is or not, however, each of these departments should go forward with energy and industry on behalf of Canada. I would ask these two ministers to consider the suggestion made some days ago by the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas) with regard to a department of economic warfare, with someone charged with the responsibility of looking after economic warfare as far as Canada is concerned. Perhaps, also, as a subdivision of one of these ministries, as in Great Britain, there might be a branch to take care of home defence and of home security. There should be some one to assume full responsibility for that very important feature of our national safety.

In the last ten months we have failed dismally to give the people of Canada some idea of what will be done in that respect. Municipalities and provinces have been harassed and worried about the situation. The freedom with which firearms are sold by retail stores in the large centres of population is something that concerns those charged with municipal administration; and when we find aliens being interned, their premises being searched, as in two of the large cities within the last month, and rifles and rounds of ammunition being found on these premises and confiscated, I say to the Department of Justice that they should draft into legislation immediately some provision for licensing every single individual, whether he be a Canadian or an alien, if he is permitted to have rifles or firearms of any description. I suggest, further, that the department should quietly see to it, when the hunting season arrives and there are tourists in our midst, that it knows who are carrying firearms, and have such persons submit to the law, if such a law is enacted. We must have an active branch of the service to look after our home affairs. If we have such a branch, we shall go a long way towards allaying the feeling of unrest which exists among the people that all is not well.

The new ministry of national service should immediately take in hand the matter of voluntary service. In answer to a question I asked the other day, the statement was made