

Supply—National Revenue

department and the others. The minister himself referred to the assessors and talked about the necessity of maintaining an informed and well-trained body of assessors in Canada. Certainly there could be no more important group of people in the department because, in the final analysis, they take our money.

In our examination of the department we were concerned about the training that some of the assessors had received and we were also concerned because in many instances after they had been trained they were lost to private industry. In effect the department was carrying on a training school for industry. The minister referred to this and pointed out that it was one of the problems. Our conclusion was that he should twist the arm of his colleague the Minister of Finance, in the hope that a more attractive scale of salaries could be applied so that these people might be encouraged to remain in the department. I leave these three thoughts with the minister and close by saying that through his supervision this is another department of the government which is doing an exceedingly fine job.

Mr. Herridge: I rise to bring to the attention of the minister a matter which has been drawn to my attention by important leaders in various C.C.F. groups and trade unions across Canada and by a good number of individuals who are showing increasing concern about the the tax exemptions granted by the department to corporations and persons who subscribe to Moral Re-Armament.

The increased interest in this question has arisen because of the spate of full page advertisements which have appeared in practically every daily newspaper in Canada. A person who went to the trouble of calculating the cost of these advertisements estimated it was around \$350,000. I want to make it clear that the objections are on two grounds. First of all, the persons who write to me and ask me to bring this matter to the attention of the committee, which I promised to do, say that this is not a religious organization and that it is therefore not qualified for exemption by law as bona fide religious organizations are and, second, the persons who write to me question the objectives and purposes of this organization which they view with considerable suspicion since they are in great doubt as to the real purposes of this organization.

I wish to emphasize before going further that I am going to read some strong resolutions. I recognize the integrity and sincerity of many individuals who subscribe to and support this organization, people who are attracted by its public appeals and the philosophy which it advances. I recognize that, and I do not for a moment question their sincerity

[Mr. Smith (Calgary South).]

or the objectives and purposes which they believe in. However, since this matter has been brought to my attention I have made a careful study of the whole situation and I want to bring to the attention of the minister a few of the representations which have been directed to me.

The first item I wish to read into the record is a resolution passed by the provincial convention of the C.C.F. in Alberta at the last provincial conference as follows—

Mr. Jones: Where was this convention held?

Mr. Herridge: We are not like the Progressive Conservative party, we hold annual conventions.

Mr. Ricard: Being such a small party it is easy to do.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Herridge: I wish the hon. member opposite would refrain from depositing his verbal offal in this chamber. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas this convention is wholeheartedly in favour of the application of moral principles to our standards of national and international behaviour, and recognizes that there is a great need for moral improvement in the world today, and

Whereas the C.C.F. is a party which, by putting humanity first strives to bring about a more moral social and political order,

Nevertheless this convention believes that we must not allow ourselves to be deceived into supporting the enemies of peace, tolerance and a just social order, merely because they use the language of religion and morality.

This convention believes that M.R.A. is such a movement, and that we must look beneath its high sounding claims to absolute honesty, purity and love, to the sordid reality beneath.

If M.R.A. used its influence to free the black peoples of Africa, to end segregation in the U.S., to seek equality and justice for minorities everywhere, if it were in the forefront of the movement for disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons, if it really did strive for world peace and brotherhood, then it would be worthy of our support.

But it does none of these things, for it is chiefly occupied in spreading propaganda which aims at the intensification of the cold war and in building up in our minds the rigid ideology more appropriate to a militaristic dictatorship than to a free democracy.

Therefore be it resolved that this convention condemns M.R.A. as a movement which is opposed to the standards of honesty, tolerance and concern for humanity, which we believe characterize the C.C.F.

The convention further protests against the fact that contributions to M.R.A. are deductible for income tax purposes so that the public treasury is depleted by the amount of taxes which otherwise would be paid to the exchequer on the amount of the gifts. Therefore the result is that as taxpayers we are forced to contribute to a movement whose aims and purposes we deplore.

Be it further resolved that this convention contends that M.R.A. is a political and not a religious organization and urges the national executive to seek a legal test on M.R.A.'s status at an early date.