

budget for their postage the number of publications listed in this return could be reduced by nearly fifty per cent.

The next recommendation deals with a practice—and it is not new, for it has been developing over a great many years—whereby departments of government perform for themselves such functions as the construction, maintenance and upkeep of their buildings. Under the Public Works Act, as the report states, that responsibility was primarily placed upon the Department of Public Works, and we think it should be returned there.

It is interesting to note in the summary of estimates that the Post Office does not spend a single dollar for erecting and maintaining new buildings, or for renting office premises. This service is all furnished by the Public Works Department, which maintains a staff for this purpose; and so it seems to us that there is duplication whenever another department of the government engages in this type of work. And where you have duplication you are bound to have increased expense. In any event, this recommendation is made in the modest hope of the committee that the government may give it some consideration.

The last recommendation deals with the same principle—that some study should be made by the federal and provincial governments to ascertain whether an overlapping of services exists, and to take the necessary steps to remedy this situation wherever possible. Anyone who is even slightly familiar with the conduct of public business realizes that the federal government and the provincial governments have many departments that are the same. I mention health and welfare, and agriculture, as examples. The provincial governments do much of the same kind of work that is done by the federal government in the field of agriculture. It should be possible to evolve some plan whereby the provincial and federal governments can perform their duties and responsibilities without duplicating their services.

Honourable senators, those are the recommendations made in the report. I do not know what attention will be given them, but I maintain that they are worthy of serious consideration.

The object of the committee in making these recommendations is to suggest that the administration of our public business at all levels of government should be established on as economic and efficient a basis as possible. The heavy increases that have taken place in government expenditures over the last ten or twelve years arise mainly from the expansion of government services in almost

all directions. It would appear that many of these could be curtailed without injury to the public interest, which, after all, is the paramount interest. When you have government expansion of services—I care not in what direction they go—you have additional tax burdens placed upon the people. I think the tax burden carried by our people has just about reached the limit, if we are not to halt, stifle and retard the development of this country.

In conclusion, I think we can accept it as a fact that we shall have to live under present world conditions for some considerable period of time. We all fervently hope that another war may be avoided. Almost anything would be better than a catastrophe such as war would bring, which might well destroy our western civilization. At the same time we realize that if we are to avoid war we must be strong and do our part along with the other western nations who are banding together to meet this great challenge from Russia. We must not forget that each one of us has a challenge to meet here at home—the challenge to think clearly, with vision unobscured as to what are the real issues in this conflict. We must realize that the important thing is not the personal security that we are reaching out to achieve, desirable as that may be, but the maintenance in this world of the freedom and liberty upon which has been built the progress of human civilization.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: That is the challenge which faces each one of us, and I make no bones about saying so; it is the challenge to put the supreme issues first and let the paltry secondary issues fall by the wayside.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators, it is a brave man indeed who would rise in his place in this chamber to make a speech on this subject after the brilliant oration which has just been delivered by the honourable gentleman from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar).

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I shall not attempt to make a speech. I agree 100 per cent with every word our colleague has said, but as one who has served on this committee down through the years I should like to add a further thought.

The important thing is that every Canadian should read this report. Every magazine and newspaper editor and reporter, every teacher, preacher and educator throughout