

I want to make some reference to the matter of controls and controllers as they operate in this country, and more especially with respect to their hindrance to the reestablishment of our veterans. I would make one specific reference, the matter of a young fellow named Tate, about whom I wrote the minister on June 28. This young chap wrote to me enclosing copy of a letter he had received from the sugar administrator at Winnipeg, Mr. J. S. McDiarmid, Jr., pointing out that he did not think his request could be considered. He had asked for a sugar ration for curing meat in a quick-freeze plant he was establishing at Killarney and hoped to have operating by July 15. The last sentence in the administrator's reply was:

We regret that present regulations do not allow any deviation from this policy.

That decision prohibits this young man from reestablishing himself with his own money. He is not asking for any financial assistance. As I say, I gave the minister this correspondence on June 28, and he acknowledged it, but his reply did not give any encouragement that something would be done in this respect. I am not going to read all Mr. Tate's letter, because it contains some pretty rough language, but he says:

I am starting a quick-freeze locker plant at Killarney, and would like very much to get a sugar quota for the cure of meats in this plant.

I joined the army on August 7, 1940, and was discharged on November 6, 1945. I spent four and a half years overseas, and if this is not enough service to qualify me for a little consideration now that I am trying to reestablish myself on my own money and time I sure don't know what in h— you people think we were doing over there.

I know damn well we weren't enjoying the home life and comforts that a lot in Canada were, and we sure didn't get anything to eat like the forces that were at home.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

It is matters such as this which cause contention, and it is difficult to pacify veterans who are faced with such difficulties in trying to establish themselves with their own funds in civil life. Again, it is a matter of controls and controllers. I could cite other cases, and I do want to register my objection to this sort of thing at this time.

I should like to make reference to what I consider to be Canada's number one problem, that of housing. It is a problem confronting everybody in every walk of life throughout this nation to-day, more especially our veterans and their dependents. True, we have the National Housing Act, War-time Housing, the Veterans Land Act, the small holdings scheme, all of which are supposed to be coordinated under the Minister of Re-

construction (Mr. Howe), and in the operation of these measures everything is being centralized in or near the large cities of Canada. I think that that, in principle, is definitely wrong. We should be decentralizing these enterprises as far as possible. It is utterly impossible for people to get financial assistance in the smaller centres. The National Housing Act is not operative in any town or village west of the great lakes, so far as I can ascertain. In this respect national housing is so far a complete washout. In fact, I know some fairly large cities where they cannot get assistance because the lending companies refuse to cooperate. That is a disgraceful state of affairs at this time, so long after the termination of the war, and in a country like this. Wartime Housing has developed what I am sure will prove in the future to be slums in certain cities of Canada. We have such a condition in Winnipeg, and I hate to think of the future of that settlement.

Under the Veterans Land Act, small holdings, a most extravagant spending orgy is in process with the result that the veteran and his family are not receiving value for the money expended on the houses that are being built under the present system. The houses are built on the cost plus basis, which means more waste and more profit. That is the principle that was carried out by the Minister of Reconstruction. The people were willing to let it go during the war years in the erection of airports and other buildings needed for the training of our men, but the matter is altogether different when you come to consider some of these projects of which I am speaking. Let me mention only one, that of Charleswood in Manitoba, where there are ninety housing units. The cost is appalling, and the houses are not yet completed. For a four or five roomed unit the cost is from \$5,900 up to \$7,000 and more, and there is further expense to be added. Having gone through these homes and inspected the material and the workmanship, I venture to say that the veterans who will live in these units will not get fifty per cent of real value from them when they buy them. To-day, under the process of adjustment, the veterans are paying a rent of \$25 for a four-room unit and \$30 for one of five rooms, and they are informed that an attempt may be made to increase the rent from \$5 to \$10 a month.

Mr. McILRAITH: What project?

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Charleswood. This is a most extravagant type of construction, and I say that for this reason. To build a single storey house is much more expensive and extravagant than to put up one of two storeys because I am convinced that, once you have