

The Address—Mr. H. O. White

have available there I should think they could do some of the work themselves. If we are to supply the men, the planes and the guns to help defend Europe, surely one of the contributions they could make would be to build the airports, the airfields and the barracks in which they are to live.

I noticed in a newspaper article on the recent visit of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) to Rome, his participation in the deliberations of the food and agriculture organization there, and his announcement that he was afraid the agricultural production of the world, and of Canada in particular, was likely to decrease. Part of the reason for that is inflation, and part of it can be laid on the doorstep of the government. We have long since reached the point where we are pricing ourselves out of European markets. They can no longer buy our goods.

Then there was an announcement in the paper a day or two ago that food supplies in the United Kingdom are lower than they were at the height of the submarine menace during the war. We find ourselves short of markets for some fruits and fruit products, yet in Great Britain and elsewhere they are not able to buy them.

I wanted to say that I concur heartily in the views expressed by the hon. member for Calgary East (Mr. Harkness) that the war veterans allowance should have been taken care of at this session. I agree, too, with the suggestion he made that if the measure is introduced at the next session it should be made retroactive. I must say that I receive great numbers of letters from men who are receiving war veterans allowances, telling me of their plight in trying to make ends meet on this inadequate allowance.

In the news broadcast at eight o'clock in the morning, November 14, it was reported that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), in reply to an inquiry regarding Great Britain's worsening monetary and trade situation, had said that there was a good market in Great Britain for Canadian goods. In view of the serious situation in that country, I must say he certainly was optimistic.

There are two further items I wish to bring to the attention of the house. One is a paragraph in a letter over the signature of the clerk of the city of London with regard to proof of age for old age pensioners. He points out that the council of London passed a resolution stating in part:

Therefore be it resolved that the dominion and provincial governments be respectfully urged to establish, in county seats and in all cities, bureaux to enable applicants for old age pensions to present evidence for the purpose of establishing date of

birth, and that consideration be given to the advisability of appointing a local authority, such as a city or county clerk or city or county welfare administrator, with the powers of a commissioner for the issuance and certification of proof of age documents, and further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the local members, and to the Ontario municipal association, with the request for their support.

I believe there is considerable merit in that resolution, and I hope the government will give it serious consideration.

Then I have in my hand a chart issued by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, showing the set-up of that department. If all departments of government would issue these in loose-leaf form so they could be brought up to date from time to time, they would be most helpful to members of the house when they wish to get in touch with various individuals in departments, as they must do from time to time.

On motion of Mr. Poulin the debate was adjourned.

KOREA

REPORTED ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CEASE-FIRE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if I might have the unanimous consent of the house, I should like to revert to motions so that I may discharge a promise I made to the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) to communicate to the house, as soon as I got it, any information obtained from the unified command of the United Nations with respect to cease-fire negotiations in Korea.

The information I have received is that the sub-delegations of the United Nations and enemy delegations meeting at Panmunjom have agreed on the line of contact between the United Nations and enemy forces for the 145 miles across the peninsula of Korea, and have thereby established the description of a neutral buffer zone which would extend two kilometers in depth from this contact line on either side, and from which both sides will withdraw if an armistice is signed within thirty days. It was expected when this dispatch was sent to us that at a meeting which was to take place at Panmunjom at eleven o'clock Tuesday, their time, which corresponds with nine o'clock p.m. eastern standard time today, the full delegations would approve the findings of the sub-delegations.

However, before a cease-fire can take effect it will be necessary for the full delegations to concur on arrangements for inspection to ensure that the truce is being observed, and to care for the exchange of prisoners of war. There is a third remaining outstanding item on "recommendations to the governments