

been replaced at the wartime prices and trade board by a mild-mannered gentleman. I give them credit for that; they have improved conditions.

Even if the policy of the C.C.F. party is to impose controls, I will tell them that it is dangerous to leave controls free of the authority and jurisdiction of parliament. Let me tell the house what happened with respect to the control of feeds. A gentleman from Montreal was appointed controller. As I said before, after he was here his firm made a thousand per cent profit. He sued nearly all the grain brokers and grain merchants of Montreal for one reason or another—with the exception of his own firm. His usefulness ceased in September, when there was no further control on oats and other feeds. But that man is still in office, and his incompetence has been the cause of the chaos in connection with the delivery of feed grains to eastern farmers to feed their stock. He is still in charge and is still receiving his salary. He says that he is writing his memoirs because he wants to inform his successor in the next war about what has to be done in connection with feeds in this country. He is writing his memoirs, but that fellow should be fired at once. That is one example.

Some years ago I introduced a bill to dispense with the economic council created by Mr. Bennett. I thank the Prime Minister for the support he gave me on that occasion. Mr. Lapointe said "carried" at the time, too; and the bill passed second reading, committee stage and third reading in five or six minutes. The House of Commons dispensed with Mr. Bennett's legislation creating an economic council.

I am opposed to economic councils. The wartime prices and trade board, as at present constituted, is one economic council we do not need, and I will tell the house why. If we are to take deputy ministers in the various departments and permit them to make policies for the country, we must remember that each man is not an expert outside his own department. When those men belonging to various departments are put together, one who is supposed to be an expert on agriculture cannot be an expert on mines. The so-called expert on mines cannot be an expert on agriculture. That is something which the committee may realize in due course.

I will tell hon. members this, that the trade policy has worked so wrongly in my constituency that the wardens and several mayors have complained to me about the manager of the branch of the wartime prices and trade

board in my constituency. I made representations to the chairman of the board. They were unsuccessful, and finally the only relief that I could secure for my people was to have that branch of the board closed. Needless to say, those men are strongly opposed to controls, because they suffered injustice from the man who was in charge of controls there.

This is not a matter which should be considered with acrimony. That would serve no useful purpose. This government is in office and, when we hear vehement speeches made against government policy, what other policy could be suggested except the imposition of controls without investigation, and, therefore, without any possible cure?

Mr. CAOINETTE: What about a dividend?

Mr. POULIOT: My hon. friend will have an opportunity to speak. The question is so serious that it could not be settled with a dividend that never comes. On the other hand, is it not possible for the members of this house who belong to all parties, which will all have representation on this committee, to show that they can leave aside all political partisan considerations in an endeavour to serve the nation in a great emergency? I have enough confidence in my colleagues to believe that they will leave aside all party considerations for the time being. Let us appoint the committee now; and, after it is appointed, each party will have the privilege and the right to make due representations, to call witnesses and to hear and learn from them, and then to express a wise opinion when the time comes. There will also be interim reports from the committee which any member of the house will have the privilege to discuss from any angle. Therefore, why not appoint the committee now and leave aside all party considerations until something comes out of the committee, something good to be praised, or something bad to be criticized and reformed. In that way we shall make progress.

I will tell you more than that, Mr. Speaker. Last week I was down home, and what did I find were the needs of my people? The needs were exactly as I have just expressed them. They said: We are fed up with these speeches made in the House of Commons which have no practical effect. If any party opposes the appointment of this committee, what advantage will that be to that party? Nothing. It is time, sir, for the members of the House of Commons to show that they realize that here is an opportunity to do a remarkable piece of work in the interests of all the people, and when the members of the