

the government to introduce the principle of parity prices in our agricultural economy. Here we have a small group of the most deserving of our citizens who were going to be placed in agriculture on their return to Canada. Surely, if the government was genuine in its protestations of desire to better agricultural conditions, this would be a good point to start. They refused, however, to introduce this amendment. Nevertheless the committee brought in a recommendation that the government give further consideration to the principle of parity prices. I should like to know if the government has given this matter consideration, and, if so, what its decision is.

There was also the matter of the treatment of soldier settlers of the last war. I did not consider that the recommendations made by the committee which dealt with the matter were sufficient, and this year I should like to see the committee reconstituted in order that it might receive a report from Mr. Murchison, director under the new Veterans' Land Act, as to what progress has been made under that act, and so that we might be able to make certain recommendations to him at this time.

There is also the matter of the allowances paid to the girls who are at present in our armed forces. I understand an order in council has been passed providing that women employed in industry shall receive the same wages as the men they are displacing. If this applies to women in industry, I believe it should apply equally to the girls who are going into our armed forces. They are displacing men, taking over their jobs, and I believe they should receive the same pay as the men. That is only fair, and the government should give consideration to this matter. There are also the matters of old age pensions, veterans' widows' allowances, health insurance and the social security provisions, on which I hope to have more to say at a later date.

There was, however, one matter taken up in the speech from the throne, on which I should like to say something definite at this time. I refer to the question of redistribution. Under the new act we in Saskatchewan will lose four members, and I believe Manitoba will lose three. We believe that any redistribution at this time is going to work an injustice as far as Saskatchewan is concerned. Large numbers of men and women who formerly lived in that province have gone elsewhere to secure employment. Many families from the south of the province were settled in the north, in the reestablishment areas, where their living was very slim indeed. As soon as war broke out and employment became

available in other parts of the dominion, these people came east or went to the coast, where at present they are employed in war industry. There is no doubt that immediately the war ends, many of those people will return to Saskatchewan. If to-day under any redistribution bill the number of seats in Saskatchewan is reduced, two years from now, when those people return to Saskatchewan and our population again increases, as I believe it will, we shall not be fairly represented in this house; and that will apply for the next ten years. Consideration should be given this point in any redistribution carried out at this time. I also believe that instead of a committee of the house we should set up a commission to deal with this matter. Redistribution has been a political football too long. I believe we will get a fairer redistribution through a commission than through a committee of this house.

Mr. D. KING HAZEN (St. John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to ask the government if it approves the "don't give a damn for the middleman" policy that has been adopted by the wartime prices and trade board. I do not ask this question in any spirit of levity; I ask it in all seriousness, because I have been informed by businessmen from my own community, on their return from Ottawa where they had been discussing with the board difficult problems which confronted them, that the officers of that board had told them in no uncertain terms that they "did not give a damn for the middleman."

I found it hard to believe that such a policy had been adopted by the board, but a short time ago, at a public meeting in the city hall of Saint John, called by the mayor of that city, to inquire into certain difficulties regarding the delivery of milk which had arisen by reason of regulations recently passed by the New Brunswick dairy products commission, the secretary of that commission told the meeting that recently he had been in Ottawa and said, I quote his remarks from the Saint John *Telegraph-Journal* of January 14:

The wartime prices and trade board is interested in the price to the consumer and the price to the producer; as far as the middleman is concerned, the wartime prices and trade board does not give a damn; he has to stand the squeeze.

A policy that does not give a damn for the middleman or for the little man, a policy that squeezes him out of business, cannot, in my opinion, be justified. Under our system