

We increased the daily press run by degrees until the end of August when it was frozen at an average net sale of 125,000.

Seeking information on this subject, I put four questions re newsprint on the order paper. I shall read the last two. They are as follows:

Has a request been received from the Vancouver *Sun* at Vancouver, British Columbia, for an increase in its quota because of increased circulation? If so, what action has been taken?

The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance answered them as follows:

Requests have been received from the Vancouver *Sun* for an increase in supply but since newsprint is no longer allocated, no action has been taken. The Vancouver *Sun* has been told that the matter is entirely between themselves and the newsprint manufacturers.

As far as newsprint is concerned, we eliminated the bureaucrats at the wartime prices and trade board, but that did not eliminate the bureaucrats. I am told now that those who want more newsprint do not approach the government or a member of parliament; they go to Chicago and there they talk to people who are not even Canadian citizens.

Let us see what happened to the price. In 1938 the price of newsprint in Canada was \$44 a ton. The current price in Montreal and Toronto—at least a few days ago; it may have gone up since—is \$80 a ton. I hold in my hand a news item from the Toronto *Star* which says:

Newsprint companies operating in Canada have reported startling increases in the net profits for 1946. Of twenty-one companies listed eleven increased their net profits from 100 to 265 per cent over 1945.

The article went on to say that the outlook for 1947 is substantially better than it was for 1946. That is going back to free enterprise with a vengeance!

Here is another article from the Ottawa *Journal* of March 26, dated Washington. It is a report by Senator Lister Hill of a statement made to him by the assistant attorney-general of the United States, and reading as follows:

"For the past several months we have been investigating complaints of a conspiracy among newsprint manufacturers operating in Canada to restrain trade into the United States. These manufacturers, including subsidiaries of American firms, supply approximately eighty per cent of the United States newsprint demand.

"The complaints have alleged that this conspiracy restricts production, fixes prices on exports to the United States and allocates the available supplies to favoured newspaper publishers. The federal bureau of investigation has been conducting the investigation to date, but we expect in the near future to proceed further by means of grand jury subpoenas."

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Hill said that "monopolistic practices of the newsprint industry are forcing small publishers to the wall," and that he was pressing for thorough and vigorous investigation by the anti-trust division. "If there are violations of the anti-trust laws," he continued, "there should be immediate prosecutions."

This is the general picture of our so-called free economy. All that this adds up to is that in removing newsprint from the control of the so-called bureaucrats of the wartime prices and trade board, who at least exercised control in the interests of the Canadian people, we have handed over controls to other bureaucrats who are controlling newsprint, not for the benefit of the Canadian people, but for the benefit of a few people most of whom do not live in Canada and are not even Canadian citizens.

My hon. friends to the right and to the left asked for the removal of controls, and in asking for that the wildest statements have been made. For instance, on March 21, as reported at page 1606 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low) said:

Surely every straight-thinking Canadian can see that it is the high taxation, the centralized state controls . . . the regimentations introduced under war conditions that have landed Great Britain, the United States and Canada into the mess in which we are floundering today. I do not think there can be any question about that at all. If we continue to adopt that policy, surely it can lead only to disaster and dictatorship.

The conditions may not be just what we would like them to be in Canada, and they are certainly not what the people would like them to be in Great Britain and perhaps not in the United States; but as a matter of fact, compared with the time when we had no controls at all, conditions in this country are prosperous. And even in the British isles, their living conditions, taking the population as a whole, are better than they were prior to the war. The proof of that is the fact that their infant mortality for 1946 is the lowest it has ever been in the history of that country.

An hon. MEMBER: So is the birthrate.

Mr. MacINNIS: As a matter of fact, that is just where the hon. member is wrong. The birthrate is the highest since 1922.

An hon. MEMBER: Give us the figures.

Mr. MacINNIS: I believe the figure for infant mortality was 43 per 1,000 live births and the birthrate, about 19.1 per 1,000 of population.

Mr. MARTIN: For 1946.

Mr. MacINNIS: And it is so because, through controls, it is the business of the