

greater immediate urgency because in many cases, particularly in the case of meat, physical supplies are being provided up to the limit for which transportation is available without impinging seriously on civilian consumption. The second problem, however, will become one of equal urgency as soon as shipping space is released because military supplies for Europe will cease to have their present importance. When plans are under consideration which cover the provision of food supplies for the year 1945 and perhaps the year 1946, the question is bound to arise whether or not the United States and Canada are prepared to lower their standards of civilian consumption in order to meet the needs of Europe. The question has already arisen with respect to sugar and has been under consideration here by the Food Requirements Committee which has given instructions to the Canadian executive officer of the Combined Food Board. It appears probable that a similar issue will arise in the case of meat, as the Canadian authorities have before them at the present time a Combined Food Board allocation for 50,000 tons, together with the U.S.S.R. requirement of a similar amount and with the United Kingdom demand for increased shipments. It would seem to me convenient that these two related problems should be considered at the same time.

5. It is not easy to persuade people to face these problems in advance because there may be some scepticism as to the intensity to which they will arise in practice. Another difficulty is that any country which is called on for an immediate sacrifice has no difficulty in pointing to some corresponding sacrifice in another country which should, in its view, take precedence over that which it is asked to make. The United Kingdom, for example, is vulnerable in maintaining large stockpiles and by the time an explanation has been given of the purpose of these stockpiles and of the reductions which the United Kingdom are willing to make, that country has been thrown on the defensive in any discussion. Canada is similarly vulnerable as a high per capita consumer of butter and meat, particularly as during the last six months the nominal Canadian butter ration has been maintained at 8 ounces a week, although in practice it has been cut to 7. For the first few months of 1945 it will be cut to 6, but again it is possible that in practice the cut may be for a longer period. In other words, our practice has been to minimize rather than to emphasize the sacrifices which civilians are called on to make for the purpose of meeting wartime demands and relief demands. The United States, in turn, is vulnerable because it has not always made its nominal allocation effective as, for instance, in the case of sugar and because it maintains a higher military ration than its Allies. The position of the United Kingdom is also weakened in discussion by the fact that it is considered politically necessary to increase some rations at a time when other countries may be asked to reduce them.

6. In Canada the policy of minimizing sacrifices may have to be superseded by the policy of emphasizing them. Canada's population is small and the contribution to the general supply situation which can be made by sacrifices in Canada is, therefore, also small. It may be the moral effect of making sacrifices which will carry most weight both in inducing other countries to follow the same course, and in making it clear to the liberated areas that