

*Interim Supply Bill*

using up gas could very well be used for other purposes. That gas could be made available for essential uses. A month has gone by, and there has been sufficient time for those who are responsible for the organization and the rationing of gas to come to some understanding as to what the future of the maritime provinces will be. Is an attempt being made at least to put the maritime provinces on the same basis as the rest of Canada? Can the minister make any statement as to when that situation will be relieved? Has he any knowledge that a certain oil company on the island of Cape Breton had a year's supply of oil on hand? That oil was pumped to ships and shipped out of that part of the country within the last month.

Mr. ILSLEY: I have no such knowledge.

Mr. GILLIS: There is evidence to that effect sufficient at least to convince me. Can the minister say whether he can see any possibility in the near future of changing that oil situation?

Mr. ILSLEY: I really have to leave a matter like that to the minister who is responsible, namely the Minister of Munitions and Supply. I am not able to make any statement other than the last statement made by the Minister of Munitions and Supply.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): The minister should give personal attention to this matter from the point of view of Nova Scotia. There is a feeling in the maritime provinces that they are unnecessarily discriminated against. If these restrictions are necessary the people will submit, but they are not satisfied that they are not being discriminated against, and that more could not be done to meet their needs.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): The matter of a farmer conveying his family in a light delivery truck does come under the minister's department. It was raised two weeks ago and was said to be under the price-ceiling control. I think the minister should make a statement.

Mr. ILSLEY: As I understand it the administrator of services has made some order which is merely part of the carrying out of the oil-control policy. That, I assume, is the situation. I surmise that the oil controller found that he had not jurisdiction to make an order relating to service, that is transportation, and that he prevailed upon the service administrator to make some order. The discussion this afternoon has shown that the problem is one essentially and fundamentally of control of the use of gasoline; I do not know what else it could be. It is probably true that Mr. Stewart as adminis-

[Mr. Gillis.]

trator of services has made some order supplementary or ancillary to the orders of the oil controller.

I will bring to the attention of the services administrator the representations made this afternoon. That the matter is one of difficulty that there are conflicting considerations, and that the officials have not acted without thought, is shown by some of the speeches made this afternoon. It may be that the situation can be improved upon. The thought I have is that this simply shows the difficulties that arise in any widespread attempt at regimentation. Yet we have to have regimentation. We have been told repeatedly that the public is away ahead of the government, and that the public will submit to any degree of control—

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Which is reasonable.

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes; that is what is always said. I remember last fall when the public was really clamouring for more regimentation, more control, I said: It is all right, the public wants a great deal of control, but the moment anything is done which strikes anyone as unreasonable they will say, "For heaven's sake exercise common sense in your control." And the test of common sense very often is whether it inconveniences the person concerned. It is absolutely impossible, in these far-reaching measures of regimentation and control, to avoid all discrimination. The hon. member for Lake Centre spoke about a matter. He was pretty well answered by the hon. member for Fort William; the man who gets a big gasoline ration I suppose should not be allowed to use it in pleasure travel, and the man who gets a small one can so use it to that extent. I suppose that is the reason.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I think there is a distinct lack of cooperation. I took this matter up with the Department of Munitions and Supply, and they told me it was under the price ceiling. I spent a whole day on it before I ever mentioned it in the house. I was at home in the intervening period and had a terrible time trying to explain the situation to the agricultural producers in my part of the country. I want to assure the minister that these people are quite willing to submit to controls, but it is distinctly a waste of gasoline, time and various other matters essential to the war effort. There is no complaint about personal inconvenience, but it is distinctly a waste in our part of the country.

Mr. ILSLEY: What is the waste?

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Well, the hon. member for Fort William said that the man who has the larger ration should be able to use