

The Address—Mr. Fair

sitting back complacently and doing nothing about farm conditions. In the *Edmonton Journal* of October 14, 1953, we find a statement which shows that agriculture secretary Benson is going to revamp the agriculture set-up. Two days later in the same paper there appears an article datelined Kansas City which shows that President Eisenhower is telling the people there what they intend to do about agriculture. They are calling a number of their top experts together to work out a plan which will protect agriculture.

What are we doing about it in this country? Are we still continuing "to have the matter under active consideration" or are we taking effective steps to protect our agriculture and, by that method, protect all of our people in this country?

Farmers are blamed for the large spread between the prices they receive and the prices which the housewives pay. I have here a statement taken from *U.S. News and World Report* which gives some information. I see that my time is slipping away so I will hustle through this as fast as I can. The list is as follows:

Commodity	Housewife pays (cents)	Farmer gets (cents)	The Spread (cents)
Bread, lb. loaf ..	17	2-6	14-4
Round steak, lb. ..	79	47-6	31-4
Bacon, lb.	85	58-6	26-4
Milk, 2 qts.	43	20-4	22-6
Butter, lb.	80	54-6	25-4
Cheese, lb.	55	27-6	27-4
Corn flakes	31	5-5	25-5
Soda crackers, lb.	25	3-7	21-3

I believe we should place responsibility for the high prices where it properly belongs. We should not create further injustices and pile them on the back of the farmer, because he is not getting the high prices that are being paid by consumers all across the country.

I intended to say something in connection with social security, but I have not much time left. However, I want to commend the government for at last taking the steps it is taking to provide some relief by way of pensions for those who are physically incapacitated. One or two provinces, including my own, are providing similar assistance at the present time, but I feel that the dominion government should make a large contribution in connection with that matter. Also, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind has sent requests which I believe should have been honoured long ago. Let us hope that at this session the legislation will be amended to provide pensions for the blind that will give them at least \$50 a month and take care of the means test as well.

[Mr. Fair.]

Another request that has been made time and again over the last two years concerns war veterans allowances legislation. I believe that single veterans eligible for war veterans allowances should receive \$60 per month and married veterans \$120 a month, with the means test removed. They should also be given permission to earn more than the small amounts provided for under section 4 of the act.

One of the last things I wish to deal with is the revision of the Bank Act. It is one of the matters that can properly be dealt with in order to provide a means of distribution of many of the things that we produce in Canada but which cannot be distributed through lack of money.

I hope that revision will not be completed this year without certain fundamental changes being made in that legislation. I believe the little group in this corner has a solution. It is one which we have laid before the house time and time again. On this occasion we have 74 members who are either new to the house or in some cases have been here before but not during the last parliament. I ask them now not to follow the lead of the whip or big boss of the party on all occasions. Let them do their own thinking for once and find out, as was pointed out by the hon. member for Moose Mountain (Mr. McCullough) when he referred to a program initiated in my province some time ago, that what is physically possible must be made financially possible.

That is the only thing we have to consider, and it does not take intelligent people very long to figure it out. If we are now bound by programs of the past, let us forget about the past and make provision for our people and at the same time take care of the communist threat. I have a poem here entitled "To the Daring" which reads as follows:

The things that haven't been done before
Those are the things to try.
Columbus dreamed of an unknown shore
At the rim of the far flung sky,
And his heart was bold, and his faith was strong
As he ventured in dangers new
And he paid no heed to the jeering crowd
Or the fears of the doubting crew.

The many will follow the beaten track
With guide posts along the way,
They live and for ages back
Have a chart for every day.
Someone has told them it is safe to go
On the road he has travelled o'er
And all that they ever strive to know
Are the things that were known before.

The things that haven't been done before
Are the tasks worth while today.
Are you one of the flock that follows
Or are you one that shall lead the way?
Are you one of the timid souls that quail