

happened after the last war in our own country, Germany and elsewhere, I feel that this matter will be as serious for Canada in the immediate future as it has been in the past six years. The danger is that the public may not appreciate the seriousness of the situation. My recollection is—I am speaking only from memory—that the increase in the price level in the twenty months after the last war was as great as if not greater than it had been during that war.

I would remind honourable senators that there is, potentially, greater danger right now because there exists a deferred need for consumer and capital goods along with a tremendous purchasing power. For that reason, while I would not for one moment suggest that any administrative actions of the Government should be accepted by this House without careful consideration, I am not certain that I could subscribe to the view which I felt was at least implied by my honourable friend as to meat rationing, rentals control and other such measures.

Of course, if after being in possession of all the facts an honourable senator or any other person felt there was no need for a certain control, it would be not only his privilege but his duty to say so. For my part, I am not in a position to say whether these various measures are necessary or not. It might be an excellent thing if one of our efficient committees—the Committee on Agriculture, and Forestry, the Committee on Banking and Commerce, or some other—asked those responsible for the controls to appear before it and satisfy honourable senators as to the need for these measures. I am not able at the moment to argue whether meat rationing is necessary or not, but I presume that it was reintroduced in order to make sure that our allies, particularly Great Britain—yes, and perhaps even the defeated peoples of Europe—shall not go hungry. There is, I am sure, on the part of honourable senators and the people as a whole, a desire that out of our bounty we should extend to the British people and our other allies every help that we can.

There is a further reason for supplying food wherever it is urgently needed. Experience has taught us that hungry and dissatisfied people are a breeding ground for social unrest and disease; and it is not always possible to prevent these evils from spreading across national boundaries. I think, honourable senators, that if we are convinced of the necessity for these controls we should do everything within our power to make their operation effective; and when we consider the tremendously serious consequences of a

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breakdown in our economic structure we should be careful to utter no word that would make the task of the administrative officials more difficult.

On the other hand, I am in hearty accord with the suggestion of the honourable leader opposite that we should direct our efforts towards securing larger markets for the primary industries and enabling them to purchase at lower prices the goods that they require. So heartily do I agree with his suggestion that were it not for the physical limitations of the seating on this side of the House I should invite my honourable friend to cross the floor. However, as this is not feasible, I can at least express my conviction that Government supporters who at present occupy seats on my honourable friend's side of the House will have for him from now on even kindlier feelings—if that be possible—than they have had in the past.

Honourable senators, every time that I have read a casualty list, every time that I have seen a ship bringing back boys and girls to this country—and, as I live in Halifax, this has been often—and every time that I have seen troop trains moving one after the other in quick succession, I have felt that I should like in some humble way, in my capacity as a member of this Senate, to do everything in my power to see that what they fought for is maintained, and that their hopes and ambitions are not dashed to the ground.

What we can do is a matter of judgment. There are pressing questions facing us. But in addition to what may be regarded as constitutional responsibilities there is, I think, an obligation on us as members of the Senate, with our wide experience of public affairs, to contribute our share to the solving of the grave problems with which civilization is now faced, and so do our utmost to match, however inadequately, the great contribution which our boys and girls made towards Allied victory and the preservation of our way of life.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. JAMES J. DONNELLY: Honourable members of the Senate, I am not on the list of speakers today, but the honourable leader on the other side (Hon. Mr. Robertson) in his very eloquent address made particular reference to meat rationing and with your permission I should like to take about ten minutes of your time on this subject.

I speak particularly for the stock raisers and meat producers of this country. I hope there is no impression abroad that those who produce our beef cattle have any objection to