

Another point which may have some bearing on this particular aspect of the problem is that Canadian provinces are generally speaking much bigger than American states. This is not to suggest that all the area of the nine Canadian provinces is capable of economic production of food. But the larger size of the provinces does give a city a greater area to draw on for meat which has not gone through a government inspected plant, and therefore has an influence in making the rule about shipping meat across the provincial line less onerous than in the much smaller American states.

The great wartime shifts of population to congested war production areas, where there is a deficiency of meat production, have further aggravated the problem in the U.S.

(Map on the following page will indicate to some extent the different distribution problems faced in Canada and in the United States. Concentration of large cities in the east is shown. In the case of the largest cities in Canada and the U.S., the population figure for the metropolitan area has been used.)

2. Also to be considered is the fact that somewhat more meat goes through inspected plants in Canada than in the United States. Nearly half the total civilian meat supply in the United States at present is non-federally inspected. In Canada, out of the total civilian meat supply in 1944 of 1,564,000,000 pounds, 657,000,000 pounds, or about 40% was not killed in inspected plants. Canadian meat policy encourages the farmer to sell in inspected plants. For example, bonuses are paid on Grade A and Grade B1 hogs by the federal government. But to obtain the bonus the hogs must, of course, be government graded and inspected. Consequently the plants where meat is government inspected can pay more. The local butcher could not pay the bonus.

The OWI release from which an excerpt was quoted above also says: "This situation (created by the fact that only government inspected meat can be sold across the state line, thereby causing faulty meat distribution) is expected to be alleviated by the application of the new distribution plan." The plan referred to is "the program for more equitable geographic distribution of civilian supplies agreed upon at a meeting in the office of James F. Byrnes, Director, Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, (which) provides for the formulation of regulations apportioning available supplies of livestock among all slaughterers of pork, beef, veal, mutton and lamb and for the adjustment of subsidy payment more nearly to equalize the competitive position among slaughterers."

The announcement also says:

"The program will not increase the over-all civilian meat supply, which will remain tight in any event. It is expected gradually to correct maldistribution in non-producing areas, especially congested war production centers. It has been adopted by the following agencies: Office of Economic Stabilization, War Food Administration, Office of Price Administration, Defence Supplies Corporation, a subsidiary of Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and the War and Navy Departments.

"The new distribution plan will become effective as soon as regulations can be formulated by OPA under authority delegated by the War Food Administrator. The subsidy adjustments, originally discussed with the industry and with livestock producers -- in January, are effective April 1.