

who made the supreme sacrifice in either world war cry out to this country and to its people for a declaration that their sacrifices were not in vain; and, if nothing more, for the raising of our voices in protest against the wrongs and injustices being perpetrated on the continent of Europe.

That being so, it is the inescapable duty of the government to speak for the Canadian people; and one which I hope it will accept before the opportunity for it is too late, and before the good which can be done by it is no longer open to us to follow.

Mr. LUDGER DIONNE (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, ever since the government abolished subsidies, lifted price ceilings on certain products and suggested definite steps in order to curb certain imports from the United States, they have been subjected to general criticism. Without even stopping to consider the reasons which may have caused them to act as they did, our people have held our legislative authorities responsible for all the trifling daily worries which are the common lot of every one of us.

Frankly I sometimes wonder if my fellow-citizens have not forgotten that Divine Providence has endowed them with intelligence so that they may judge current events according to the dictates of common sense. From the way they are asking what steps the government intends to take to protect their present standard of living and to provide them with what they call their due share of happiness, one would think their voices were the monotonous reproduction of a gramophone recorder. They resent being asked what they themselves intend to do in order to bring about this state of things, this happiness to which they claim they are entitled.

During the war our people used to complain about controls. While a great many were clamouring for the abolition of the same controls, a large portion of our population openly favoured black-market practices against which the government was trying to protect them by means of a nation-wide organization. Officials of this organization invited every Canadian to inform against those guilty of illegal practices. Committees were created in practically all important centres to gather, under the pledge of secrecy, information in connection with such infractions. Offices were opened all over Canada by the wartime prices and trade board in order to proceed against violators of the law.

The majority of our people refused to denounce black-market operators. They preferred to hide them in order to obtain more

easily sugar at \$20 a bag, adulterated butter at 60 or 65 cents a pound, nails at \$30 a keg, and so forth.

In general the working people refused to do overtime, and even absented themselves in order to avoid additional income tax payments. They spent lavishly, not only for necessities of life but for luxuries. Money spent on liquor in Canada gives us an idea of our people's extravagance. I shall quote the figures regarding our liquor consumption for the years 1939 to 1946 inclusive:

1939	\$179,338,373
1940	191,709,976
1941	231,977,246
1942	287,446,107
1943	335,174,259
1944	341,892,135
1945	372,866,288
1946	483,681,678

These figures are based on the price per bottle or per case. We could easily double these amounts by adding the profits on liquor sold by the glass or in blind pigs.

Our people were completely taken by a frenzy of pleasure, which was evidenced by long queues outside liquor stores, theatres and other places of amusement, and it often ended in orgies at night-clubs. During that same period, China, Japan and the whole of Europe were under the iron heel and were subjected to all kinds of privations, and the flower of their youth was being sacrificed on battlefields, among indescribable sufferings.

After the war, while controls and subsidies were still in force, our workers demanded salary increases, holidays with pay, shorter working hours and so forth, which were granted willingly or otherwise. Canadians received in wages, salaries and supplementary labour income a total of \$530,000,000 in September. The figure was \$13,000,000 higher than for August and \$84,000,000 more than in September 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the first nine months of 1947, labour income amounted to \$4,404,000,000 an increase of 18 per cent over the corresponding period of 1946. Our total production was around \$12 billion; our labour for twelve months received \$5,872,000,000, or nearly fifty per cent of our total production. I mention these figures for the information of those who believe that increase in salaries is insignificant in the cost of the finished products.

In 1947 our imports from the United States amounted to fantastic figures. Automobiles could not be purchased without payment of a bonus ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. United States imports were at such a premium in the stores, and it was such a problem for dealers to keep their shelves stocked, that Canadians