

forms of agreements for each and all, and regarding the larger corporations I suggest that there should be some consideration for those industries that have closed and for those who have lost their jobs as a result of the war in Europe, as in the case of the industry I mentioned.

Mr. McNIVEN: The discussion this afternoon and to-night seems to have centred round the establishment of the fact that relief is carried on in a political atmosphere, and there seems to be a determination to convey to members of this house the impression that the centre of that activity is in Saskatchewan. It is only necessary to assure the committee that that was the burden of the campaign speeches in the provincial election of 1938, with disastrous results to those who expounded that policy, and likewise in the campaign that has recently concluded. I notice at page 1001 of *Hansard* that the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) uses this language:

The minister wants to know about the administration of relief in Saskatchewan. Let me point out to him what happened in connection with employment upon public projects in Regina. The provincial member for Regina took the stand that unless a man had been able to get his application for work initialed by the president of the Liberal association or, better still, by the Liberal member, he could not obtain employment on a public project.

I would remind hon. members that the subject matter referred to in this speech was also referred to in the last session by the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas) and the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley), and at that time I made an explanation which I thought was satisfactory to the members of the house. Undoubtedly it has not been called to the attention of the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker), and if he has me in mind when he makes the statement that on relief works it is necessary to have the application initialed by the Liberal member, then I want to assure him that he is mistaken. The provincial member to whom reference is made did make some statement in 1939 and used casual employment at the post office in the city of Regina as the horrible example. In reply I cited that in the Regina post office in Christmas of 1938 there were 143 casual employees, of whom thirty-one were on the eligible list. Of the remaining 112, sixty-nine were returned soldiers, married men with dependants. One was a single returned soldier. Of the other forty-two, eleven were single men and the other thirty-one, married men with dependants. The system followed in selecting these employees was to advise the various veterans' associations that so many positions

were available and to send in their recommendations. Their recommendations having been sent in, the postmaster and I made the selections on the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number.

Mr. MacNICOL: Why would the postmaster consult a member of parliament? We have not experienced such a thing in our district.

Mr. McNIVEN: Well, it is the policy of the member for Regina City to be of service to any government employee wherever it is possible and to render the maximum of service to the largest possible number of constituents.

Mr. MacNICOL: Why would not the postmaster ask the defeated candidate his opinion?

Mr. McNIVEN: Because he was defeated.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Would he not be just as reputable a man in the community? I think both sides should be consulted, both the member and the defeated candidate.

Mr. McNIVEN: We had some experience between 1930 and 1935, and I do not know of any defeated candidate or anybody prominently or otherwise identified with the Liberal party ever being consulted or ever getting any employment. There was a decided difference in the administration of employment following 1936 from what obtained prior to 1935. The attack seems to centre on the Minister of Agriculture. My own city was made the centre for the distribution of fruits and vegetables, fish, cheese, beans, et cetera, in 1937, and again in 1938, and I can say for the Minister of Agriculture that he instructed us that the employment incidental to those enterprises was given on exactly the same basis as I mentioned a moment ago. Time and again I have approached the Minister of Agriculture for employment for needy persons on what is known as the prairie farm rehabilitation plan, and have been told by him that, since there was no farm rehabilitation in my constituency, the employment would be given in those centres where the work was being done, the work being undertaken there in order to give employment for people who needed it in that locality. And I had never heard it suggested that employment on projects of that kind was administered on a political basis.

Mr. HOMUTH: You would never do that!

Mr. McNIVEN: For the benefit of the hon. member who has just spoken, I can say that in the last five years I have never asked any man or woman what his or her political convictions were.