

are, eight men who have served in the forces during the course of the present war, young men, on relief in the city of Winnipeg.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Are those the men referred to in St. Boniface?

Mr. KNOWLES: No. They are in Winnipeg, on the relief rolls of the public welfare department of that city. Their cases were brought to my attention by members of the city council who are on the public welfare committee, and these same members pointed out to me that the feeling of that committee and of the council as a whole is so keen on the matter that they are considering cutting these men off relief. Hon. members will recognize immediately that if this action is taken by the city council of Winnipeg it is not because the members of that council want to see these men destitute; it will be because they feel that something drastic should be done to bring to the attention of the government the shame that veterans of the present war, even now while the war is on, even while the government is talking about the wonderful things it is prepared to do for the men, even now while other departments are speaking of the need for man-power, should be on relief. So far as I know that action has not yet been taken by the Winnipeg city council, but I understand it is under consideration and it indicates how keenly the people of that area feel about this matter.

I said that we of this group heartily approve the policy of bringing under one department all matters relating to veterans, but none of us in this house should carry on under the illusion that by doing this by itself we shall satisfy the men in the armed services. What they are interested in is not the kind of machinery that we set up or even necessarily the personnel administering that machinery. What they are interested in is the policy behind it all and the results of that policy.

At the present time we are engaged in a terrific struggle. We are conscious of how important it is to the future of Canada that that struggle be won. Because of that recognition we are prepared to mobilize everything; we are prepared to spend all the money that is necessary. So far as this parliament is concerned, there is no limit at all. We are prepared to spend every dollar running as it does into billions, for the sake of winning the present war. That involves the payment of pay and allowances, provision of clothing, medical and dental services and other things to the men in the services; these things in thousands of cases represent far more than they had before they went into the forces. We are not only glad to do it; we feel it is

our duty; we feel it is part of the price we must pay to make sure that we win the conflict in which we are engaged.

May I point out that so far as our future in Canada is concerned, of equal importance with the winning of the struggle in which we are engaged is the kind of men these chaps will be in the years that lie ahead after the war is over. If these men come back and are discouraged, disillusioned by policies that they feel reflect ingratitude or lack of appreciation of what they have done, it is not only a matter of the loss of a generation, so far as the men themselves are concerned, but the future of Canada as a whole will suffer.

I feel, therefore, that we in this parliament should realize that if it is necessary to spend millions and billions, as is now the case, to enable these men to defend the country, we must also be prepared to spend millions and billions, if necessary, to rehabilitate these same men physically, psychologically, economically and in every possible way to make sure that we shall not have any disillusionment or discouragement, any soured generation, in the period that immediately follows this war. I feel that generosity most certainly should be the keynote in the years immediately following the cessation of hostilities. All of us are aware, although we in the house cannot fully appreciate it, what these men are going through. We are aware of the mental upsets that are taking place, as our young men engage in operational flights, night after night. We can sense something of what it means to these people to go through the experiences in which they are now engaged.

To many of these young men, not only has it been a period of stress and strain, but also it has been one in which they have been given something to do, something to work, to struggle and to fight for, and, if necessary, to die for. In that sense it has done something for them. It has lifted many of them from the uselessness they had experienced in the thirties, and has made them feel that they are part of the life of Canada. If, after the experiences they have had, these men have to return to ingratitude or to a lack of appreciation, we shall be storing up for ourselves very real and difficult problems. I would hope that we in parliament would see to it that we tackle the problem of rehabilitating the veterans economically, physically, psychologically and in every other possible way. I would hope that we would tackle that problem as one which is every bit as important as the problem of the defence of our country.

There will be some who, while prepared to admit the justice of the cause, and that these men are deserving of proper treatment, will