

should be willing to put our civil rights and liberties in pawn. I must confess I do not know very much about pawnshops. I have always said that in northern Saskatchewan we have not had many social services, and this was one we did not have—the pawnshops. And I think perhaps in the past I might have been pleased to avail myself of that service. Now, when an article of any value is placed in pawn, a ticket is given in exchange, and through that ticket the borrower may redeem the article of value. Where is that ticket the Canadian people should have to-day, with which they may retrieve their freedom and certain of their rights and liberties which under these defence of Canada regulations are being taken from them?

Several hon. members have said on different occasions in the house that the government has a mandate from the people. Would it perhaps not be wiser to say "has had"? We live in a time of swiftly moving events, let us never forget that. During the last year events have moved very swiftly, possibly more swiftly than at any other time in our history. People who a year ago viewed certain things with a measure of complacency to-day view with alarm and with growing apprehension the tide of affairs within our country.

During the last year we have seen the application of the defence of Canada regulations, of which at the time of the election we had not become aware to any great extent. We have seen numbers—I do not know exactly how many—of our ordinary citizens interned without, as I say, the usual process of law and guarantee of trial. We have seen certain groups in this country called illegal. We have seen certain measures of compulsion with regard to the war effort. Undoubtedly there is in Canada to-day a certain amount of compulsion upon people who are working in factories or in various businesses in connection with the war savings campaign. Undoubtedly—and I do not believe this can be denied—unequal sacrifices are being made in this war. During the last year we have witnessed an enormous spending programme and the creation of a vast debt, a debt greater and more stupendous than the people of this nation have ever had to accept before. We have seen a serious situation in western Canada, one which so far seems almost impossible of solution; this government apparently has no solution to offer. We have seen rule by order in council. That, again, is a dictatorial and not a democratic procedure. We have seen various orders in council directed against organized labour in Canada.

I say now emphatically that many Canadians, who a year ago viewed these regulations

[Mr. Nielsen.]

with more or less complacency and were willing to leave them in the hands of the government, are to-day viewing them with apprehension. The regulations have not the support of the people. I say without hesitation that among many groups of people there is the growing belief that these defence of Canada regulations are being used deliberately to stifle the apprehensions of the people and the expression of their apprehension and discontent. The government is trying to silence the protests of the people. It is asking for unity, but it is trying to enforce unity of opinion. The fact that the government is using these regulations to enforce conformity of opinion is, in the view of some of us, an indication that it is well aware that the people are not unanimous in their agreement with the policy of the government and the legislation it has enacted. Moreover, I would go so far as to say that the very fact that the government is forced to put certain of these regulations into operation is an indication that it fears the expression of the people's will. There is growing discontent, and yet the government does little or nothing to eliminate the causes of discontent among our people. Rather it seeks to suppress the discontent by arbitrary rulings under these regulations. It acts as the ruler of the people, not as their servant.

Already we have heard a great deal about Mr. Meighen, and what he is reported to have said some time ago. At least he was honest. In effect he said that if an unregulated and unrestricted profits system were to be finished by this war, then he did not see what there was to fight for. I believe if any ordinary person, a member of a farmers' organization or a trade union, or a member of a relief recipients' association, had stated publicly that he did not see what there was to fight for, he would be in an internment camp cooling his heels. I believe I am safe in saying, however, that the government has at no time even thought of arresting Mr. Meighen. For one thing, the government does not fear the loss of Mr. Meighen's support, or the support of people like Mr. Meighen, and those he represents. The government can take that position because it is doing nothing, and does not intend to do anything, to limit or to restrict power, privilege or the profits system in Canada. In a time of war it is allowing—and there is not a shadow of doubt about it—a condition of profitable patriotism. We see, too, how clear it is that they need not fear people like Mr. Meighen, because legislation passed in the house and orders in council have declared protected areas for certain industries owned and controlled by monopolies in this country. We find that as an advisory com-