

national capital and its surrounding area so as to worthily represent Canada, without using the excuse of a national war memorial to do it. It will not help the veteran vainly seeking housing accommodation in Saskatchewan or Nova Scotia, or any other province, to read that his service and sacrifice in war have been suitably commemorated by the beautification of Ottawa. The right kind of memorial to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the men and women who fought is a Canada of to-morrow with jobs, security and opportunity for all. One of the first concerns of all members of this house at this particular time ought to be the care and rehabilitation of war veterans.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the government's administration of its own plans has failed to meet the needs of returned service men and discharged war workers. Its policies, after the blueprint stage, have been fumbled in administration from beginning to end.

One of the government's outstanding defaults, as far as veterans are concerned, is the general lack of accommodation for them on their return. The government spreads its propaganda to the four winds of heaven, telling about generous gratuities, while concealing the cruel fact that the gratuities of many veterans will be eaten up completely by the extra cost of building a home, due to increased building costs. From all indications, the situation is likely to be worse before it is better.

To produce prompt and adequate housing accommodation for all service men in need of it is the imperative and immediate duty of this government.

I want to say, with all the emphasis at my command, that this nation will not stand for any chiseling down of the promises and commitments made to service personnel while they were fighting our wars abroad.

I now come to another question—that of controls.

This nation has made it clear it does not want socialism. This nation has made it clear that the people are opposed to regimentation. They do not want to have bureaucratic controls in operation any longer than necessary. It is important, however, that the road from control to de-control be an orderly retreat and not a disorderly rout.

The scarcity of important basic materials rendered certain controls necessary, but, as someone has said, "coercion is insatiable." Controls seemed automatically to breed and multiply till they invaded practically every department of life and became almost intolerable, even in the patriotism of war time.

[Mr. Bracken.]

Moreover, the new controllers exercised powers quite unprecedented in our experience—powers which, in effect, were exercised free from the parliamentary control to which ministers of the crown are subject.

The public counts on these controls and controllers being removed as rapidly as possible. It seems clear that, as shortages were put forward as the justification for their imposition, controls should be removed as fast as shortages disappear.

While on the subject of controls, let me deal with one very controversial one. The government yesterday announced the introduction of meat rationing in Canada. I ask the government to make clear the answer to a simple question, which is being asked by both producers and consumers of meat all over this dominion: is meat rationing necessary? Does the government consider it is necessary? Many do, but many others question it. All will agree that food must be provided for the people of Britain and other countries whose populations have suffered so much in the war we fought together. In this respect we must see to it that Canada does her full share. Let us have no misunderstanding on that point. I know of no one who questions that policy, or who is opposed to seeing that Great Britain and our allies receive all that we can send them of our supplies.

If the government can show the necessity of meat rationing at this time when controls of this kind should normally be removed, then we must inquire why such a condition arose and who is responsible for it. If, to provide meat to Britain, there is need for rationing meat in Canada to-day, the blame can largely be laid at the door of the government itself for its failure to maintain hog production at higher levels. There is being produced in Canada this year much less bacon than a year ago. This is chiefly due to the government's policy of keeping hog prices so far out of line with feed prices as to discourage hog production.

Some two years ago, the government announced an export equalization bonus of fifteen cents per bushel for barley and ten cents for oats. Immediately farmers started to cut down hog production. They naturally took the higher price for grain, instead of feeding it to hogs. The government later gave a half-hearted recognition of the hog-raiser's position by announcing a \$3 bonus on grade A hogs; but hog production continued to decline because the hog and coarse grain bonuses were out of balance. The final effects of this short-sighted policy started to show in the sharp decline in hog slaughterings in the fall of