

correspondence, complaining of the 25 per cent excise tax on radios, refrigerators and other appliances. Whether or not we consider these things necessities, I believe the tax is wrong in principle. Certainly I do not think it should be applied on necessities; and I am convinced that an electric refrigerator is just as necessary as any other piece of equipment in the home today. Indeed, with the high cost of foodstuffs it is imperative that our people have the equipment with which to preserve the goods they have in store.

Then I have a communication from the Canadian daily newspapers association complaining of the eight per cent sales tax and intimating that there is rank discrimination against the daily newspapers in its application. I felt I should bring this matter to the attention of the house inasmuch as it has a direct relationship to what is fair and square. The complaint is that the newsprint going into the production of magazines is not subject to this sales tax. To show just how this works in practice, these people state in their brief that the *Toronto Star Weekly* does not have a news section and, therefore, does not pay the eight per cent sales tax on the newsprint consumed by the publication of several magazine sections in each week-end edition. But the *Montreal Standard* has a news section, and must pay the sales tax on all newsprint consumed in the publication of the several magazine sections and the news section in each week end edition. I have referred to two Canadian publications, but I am more concerned about the daily newspapers which have circulations of some considerable size and which are competing against a multitude of United States magazines, many of which we could very well do without in Canada. I do not think we are placing our people in a position to offer what might be considered fair competition. I do not believe the Canadian people should be expected to absorb the eight per cent sales tax; and by the same token it is questionable whether the publishers of our daily newspapers should be expected to do so, either. I believe there is much room for study and adjustment in this connection.

Then I have two petitions, each signed by the secretary. The first comes from the township council of Sarawah, in Grey county signed by A. Cameron; the other is signed by George H. Boone, clerk of the municipal council of the town of Thornbury, also in Grey county. The petitions are exactly the same, and I should like to read one into the record:

Resolved that we hereby endorse the principle that war disability compensation for Canada's fighting men should be fixed with due

[Mr. Case.]

recognition of the economic conditions under which they must suffer lifelong disabilities.

We consider the request made unanimously by all organizations of the war disabled in Canada for a basic rate which will provide \$100 a month for 100 per cent disability to be reasonable and just, and we ask the government of Canada to implement this proposal.

I am happy to bring this matter to the attention of the house, and I am sure it will be given consideration by the veterans affairs committee, which has now been set up. In due time I hope an answer will be given the petitioners; but I present the petition on their behalf as a matter of record.

I also have a lengthy petition from the Canadian merchant navy veterans' association, appealing for consideration on behalf of the merchant navy. I am not going to read it into the record; it is simply a copy of one addressed to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and dated February 25, 1948; but I should like to say this. In my own city of Owen Sound we had many young men who served in the merchant navy, one who had two ships torpedoed from under him, and I do think further consideration should be given that gallant chap, who lost two ships and both times, of course, landed in the sea losing everything. He has suffered a great deal of distress as a result of his harrowing experiences. I believe these men were part and parcel of Canada's fighting forces, and they should be given every consideration.

I have only one other observation to make, and that is with respect to the restrictions on the importation of fresh vegetables, and so on. I simply remind the house once more of an editorial which appeared in the *Owen Sound Daily Sun-Times* of Saturday, March 6, appealing to the government, as I have appealed, to determine now the position they propose to take for 1949, in order that we may encourage those who are able to produce the much needed vegetables and give them the assurance that there will be a market for their produce if they decide to increase their production. I am sure that, given the incentive, they will stimulate their productive activities and we can be sure of more of the vegetables we require next winter.

That is all I have to say, Mr. Speaker, but I recommend to the consideration of the house and the various committees the matters I have discussed.

Mr. A. L. SMITH (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I am going to delay the putting of the question by not more than two and a half minutes at the out-