

That kind of provision is in many statutes. As a matter of fact, I was hurriedly looking through the list of them I have here, and I think I could quote almost any statute relating to the Department of Agriculture, setting up ways and means of controlling the expenditure of money by different branches of the government and enabling regulations to be made by order in council and those regulations to be put into effect—all for the spending of money. I mention that to suggest that there is not quite so much after all to the argument which has been presented by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker), but I quite agree with him that under ordinary circumstances the principle he has laid down should be followed so far as it is possible to do so.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: But there is not a statute here. That is just my point.

Mr. GARDINER: There is not a statute; but there is provision, as I pointed out the other day, not only in connection with one item but many items, for similar things being done. Again I am not advocating that that should be the general practice, but there are special conditions under which it has been considered over a long period of time the proper way of dealing with certain matters.

As I stated when I brought down these proposals, there are two or three ways in which we might have dealt with them. We might have dealt with them by statute; we might have dealt with them as we are proposing to do now; or we might have dealt with them directly under the powers given to us by the War Measures Act and simply made another item, just as apples were—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Does not the minister think that would have been the wrong way? This could have been considered only indirectly a war measure.

Mr. GARDINER: I came to the conclusion that it was preferable to deal with it this way, or we would have attempted to deal with it the other way. We have selected this method instead of proceeding altogether under the War Measures Act. As compared with half a dozen other matters, particularly the one having to do with apples, and others dealing with food products with which the Department of Agriculture is concerned, I could enumerate certain things which were required to be done in practically every department of government because of the fact that we are at war. To realize this, one has only to listen to those who have taken part in this discussion from all sides of the chamber. This is something which no party and no government which we have had in Canada in

the past, or are likely to have in the future, would bring in as a matter of policy, and say, "We are going to establish it on the statute books of this country, to remain there for a considerable period of time". It is an unusual thing, and we hope it will be necessary only for this year, although we may find it is necessary to extend it longer than this year.

The matter which I rose to place on *Hansard* a few moments ago is a case illustrating the point that changes are taking place every day. Before we return to this house, there may be many other changes in relation to the present war and the undertakings being entered into between Britain and the United States, between Britain and some other countries with which she is associated in this war, and between Britain and Canada, which may necessitate changes in regulations. For that reason we think it advisable to have the matter submitted to the house in the manner in which this has been presented.

As to the question whether changes were necessary so soon after we had drafted the regulations, I believe it is in the memory of hon. members that when I brought in the regulations the other day, I stated to the committee that of necessity those regulations were not complete, that there were certain things required to be done by the wheat board which would affect the nature of some of the regulations which would be required, and we were desirous of having the opinion of the committee before they went home for the recess, rather than of placing the regulations in final form before the country after hon. members had gone. That is the only reason why changes may be decided upon as a result of the discussions which take place here. We have brought forward these regulations earlier than they would otherwise have been placed before council, in order that they might have the consideration of this house as well as of those outside the house.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I did not get clearly the answer to the question of the hon. member for Weyburn as to this quota and the basis of delivery. If the amount per acre to be delivered this year is the same as the amount last year, it may be 350 millions. How do you arrive at the quota delivered on 65 per cent of the acreage? How do you arrive at the quota which the individual has to deliver, and what will become of the remainder?

Mr. GARDINER: My understanding is this, although, as the wheat board are working on the quota, I should not like anything which is said now to be taken as final. After all, it is the wheat board which deals with this matter. My understanding is, however,