

they had not been discussed in this house, though they had been thoroughly discussed in that committee. May I speak a word of approval of the Minister of Justice. I say that every single recommendation of that committee relating to the defence of Canada regulations was accepted and carried out by the government of which the right hon. gentleman is Minister of Justice. Without exception, every recommendation that committee made was carried out. The hon. member for North Battleford, speaking on the budget, after calling attention to excess profits tax and that sort of thing, and people who have money, said:

But of course that capital is something in the nature of a golden calf set up in our country, something we are forbidden to touch. That is a precedent which has been created, one which even in this time of crisis the government is going to continue to protect. Our men must suffer; they must give their lives. Our people must toil unremittingly. They will be forced to accept wages set for them. They will be forced to accept conditions, under the defence of Canada regulations. Yet at the same time the conditions I have described will go on.

Is that a proper criticism to make and to scatter broadcast throughout the country against the defence of Canada regulations?

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Is it subversive?

Mr. TURGEON: Let the hon. member ask himself that question.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I say it is not subversive.

Mr. TURGEON: I am not saying it is subversive. I am not saying anything about any action against the hon. member for North Battleford. As a matter of fact, I would sincerely hope that no action would be taken against the hon. member. I am talking now about appeals to the people of Canada in this time of stress, this time of war, based upon such things as the defence of Canada regulations.

There is no one in this house who is more anxious than I am to see people who are distressed, particularly the farming population of western Canada, relieved from their position.

An hon. MEMBER: The hon. member's works do not prove it.

Mr. TURGEON: There is no man who has been a more forcible and consistent advocate of those distressed farmers than I have. The difference is that I am not trying to exploit their distress. I am not looking for publicity simply because in this country there are people in distress. I am doing as a member of parliament everything that I can to see that those who, after all, have the right

of initiation of measures in this house, do proceed along lines that will bring relief to those in distress. But if I had to depend for political success upon a race for supremacy in the leadership of the exploitation of that distress, then I would wish to retire from this parliament.

One more quotation I should like to make from the speech of the hon. member for North Battleford in the budget debate. It is this:

In my opinion there is no reason why the people should have to believe these things any longer. I wonder how long it will be before the people really realize the unnecessary burden which the government has put upon them. I cannot think it will be very long. I believe the government realized months ago that during this war crisis the people's wisdom and natural understanding of things would come to their aid and that they would rebel against unjust legislation and the unjust burden of taxation which might be placed upon them. This government had the defence of Canada regulations prepared which are instruments of coercion to be used in the future upon our Canadian people.

Is that taking active steps to relieve the distressed people whose position is pitiful as well as tragic, telling them from this parliament that the defence of Canada regulations have been devised and designed and are being administered for the purpose of coercing them into accepting policies of this government which they have just been told are the cause of the unfortunate condition under which they live?

I do not intend to take any more time. I said at the beginning that I hesitated to speak lest any words of mine should add fuel to the fires of discontent which have been started since the beginning of the war. I wish to end with an appeal to those who have been dealing with the defence of Canada regulations in the manner which I have described. Nothing is perfect; God knows this administration is not perfect; there are many acts of the government which can and should be criticized. But why must every criticism of the government be tied up to the defence of Canada regulations? Why must every deplorable condition existing among the people be brought back to some design of this government anxious—not to win the war—anxious only, they tell us, by means of these regulations, to perpetuate economic and social distress among certain portions of our people?

What I ask is that from now on, those who speak of distress should deal with it without mentioning the defence of Canada regulations, and they should deal with the defence of Canada regulations in the manner in which they would deal with any other matter that was the subject of discussion. To-night, for example, the hon. member for Weyburn dealt