

of our country, I wish to record, at this stage of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, certain observations that I know my constituents of Regina look upon as dealing in paramount fashion with the well-being of our city itself and which, while carrying special weight there, are typical of urban problems right across the Dominion of Canada, my hon. friend to the contrary notwithstanding.

These topics, to which I wish to refer sketchily, are full employment and housing. As an overseas veteran recently discharged, and with some four months' activity in the Department of Veterans Affairs attempting to settle some of our comrades' problems, I feel I can speak for that large body of younger men and women who are now looking to us to reabsorb them happily and satisfactorily in the peace-time life of our country. Nor, while I am a new member of this house, am I so naive as to feel I am going to alter very greatly the crystallized ideologies or the prejudices of the more mature and expert members.

The present government has assumed office on the pledge of full employment coupled with a rising level of social security, all placed on a free-enterprise platform. In a broadcast to our Saskatchewan citizens on the eve of election the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mackenzie King) as well as the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), as I remember, emphasized the fact that in the Liberal party were to be found business abilities which, by inference at least, were not to be found in the C.C.F. or in other parties asking for a mandate from the people, and which are so necessary in this imminent transition period from war to peace.

And so on June 11 the Canadian citizens gave the Liberal party its somewhat shaky and uncertain order to go ahead and finish the job of making Canada a place fit for heroes to live. The best planning efforts of the Liberal party in the transition period are, I think, in the matter of veterans affairs, with some rather important exceptions. I wish to congratulate the government on the gratuity principle, on the plan for continuance of interrupted vocational or university education of veterans, and on the idea at least embodied in the term "reestablishment credit".

One very great defect in the gratuity system implemented by the government is that with the changes from time to time in the clothing grant for example, varying from as little as \$35 to a high of \$100, certain inequalities have been caused to veterans, depending upon the date of discharge. I feel that this

should be amended to bring every veteran, regardless of date of discharge, up to the maximum receivable, and I further suggest that this maximum of \$100 is far too low at present prices for clothing to fulfil its purpose, that of decently outfitting a person as a civilian.

Then there is one special group, those who were called out under G.O. 139 and then discharged in the early years of the war. They have been entirely excluded from the application of the clothing benefit. They, too, have served and deserve as careful consideration as the veterans who by chance, were discharged more recently. The amount per month allotted to veterans attending university or taking vocational training, as pointed out by our leader this afternoon, is definitely inadequate for the purpose intended. I wish to repeat his proposal of this afternoon in this regard. He stated at that time that the pay and allowances of the service veterans should be used as the basis for continuance of education benefits, with a minimum of \$25 a week, instead of having the present scale of \$60 monthly for a single veteran, with \$20 additional for a wife, \$12 for a child, and so on. The reestablishment credit, which had as its purpose, I presume, from its name, the reestablishment of the veteran in his civilian business or other self-supporting capacity, does not make it possible for a man who wishes to go into private business to start off without great financial debts. If it is the government's desire to foster free enterprise so-called, it seems to me that returning veterans have been definitely discriminated against in the practice of the reestablishment credit benefits, which do not come even close to the cost of setting up in the simplest business.

Then the provision of \$30 monthly pension for the dual service pensioner is another inadequacy if it is desired to keep together more than the body and soul of the veteran who has served in both wars. Why not provide this man with a pension adequate to maintain his self-respect and make him feel that his country did appreciate his sacrifices. Since election day, as indeed before, the rumblings in our part of the country, of this stormy, halting transition with unfulfilled and unfulfillable promises of the once mighty political party, legislating planlessly or with the limited plans of its planning bodies, were evident to Regina constituency. Rumours of impending lay-offs in our largest single employer, Regina Industries, were current as soon as Germany had surrendered. With an election in the offing the Minister of Reconstruction (Mr. Howe) assured the premier of