

was told that there was none. However, the wartime prices and trade board would have to remain in existence until the orders in council were removed either by the lapse of time or by the action of parliament. Therefore I think the motion accomplishes nothing. However, as I have said, if members want to vote for it we have no objection. It is a direction that the board must remain there for at least that length of time. I am satisfied that it will remain there for that length of time; I am satisfied that it will have to, and that the rental control organization and certain other organizations which derive their existence from these orders in council must remain there for the period provided in the act or until parliament itself would do away with these organizations. Therefore the government will not be embarrassed by the amendment, but it must be made clear that the amendment is not accepted by the government as in any sense a criticism or censure of the policies which it has followed. I do not think it has any bearing one way or the other on confidence in the government or approval of its policies.

Mr. SHAW: Am I correct in assuming that the sponsor desires through this amendment to prevent the government from making any changes whatsoever in the direction of decontrol between the time of prorogation of this parliament and the commencement of the next session?

Mr. KNOWLES: No, that could not be done by this amendment.

Mr. TUCKER: If the government may make any changes in regard to decontrol what would be the object of keeping the board in being and paying them salaries when they might have nothing to do?

Mr. KNOWLES: It is interesting to be in the position of having to answer questions instead of ask them. I thought I had answered that one before, Mr. Chairman. I will try to say it again in a tone of voice less offensive to the minister, although I still feel strongly about the matter. I suggest that if parliament passes this amendment, as I hope it will, and thereby expresses its approval of the job done by the wartime prices and trade board, that will be at least an indication to the government that parliament wants price control continued and a serious effort made by the government through the wartime prices and trade board to prevent increases in prices such as have been taking place in recent weeks. That is the issue before the committee.

Amendment (Mr. Knowles) negatived: yeas, 14; nays, 63.

Mrs. STRUM: We have not enough votes to carry amendments or to defeat the government, but we would be failing in our duty if we did not express the protests of the people in our constituencies against government action in the matter of price control.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. This clause does not in my opinion permit of a full discussion of price control. According to the standing order all discussion in committee must be strictly relevant to the clause under consideration. This clause has to do with revocation. I will read it:

The governor in council may revoke in whole or in part any order or regulation continued in force by or made under this act.

It is a question of the power of revocation.

Mr. MacINNIS: If revocation of the order can be discussed, Mr. Chairman, how can one possibly discuss revocation without discussing the order itself and the matters that come under it? As this covers all the orders I submit that all the matters dealt with in the orders are open to discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: I did not intend to prevent the hon. member from referring to the orders or regulations, but her references should be in relation to the power of revocation.

Mrs. STRUM: I am not, of course, an authority on procedure, but I understood that this was the key clause covering all the orders and their revocation in whole or in part. I may have misunderstood the wording, but I understood that this was the key which leads to all the orders and all parts of all the orders, and I interpreted this clause as being the one on which you could discuss the revocation of price controls.

The CHAIRMAN: I take it that that is correct.

Mrs. STRUM: That is what I wished to discuss, the revocation of price control orders. Am I in order in doing that, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is in order.

Mrs. STRUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been alarmed at the publicity being released recently by the wartime prices and trade board which would give us to understand that prices in Canada must follow the price levels in the United States. I could quote speeches from various persons now in the employ of the department, and I must say that this publicity is to me alarming because