

things, without at the same time telling them that there will be a limitation, so far as sugar rationing is concerned. They do not mind, as long as they understand the general plan. But give them the general plan, and do not leave it to the local ration boards to carry the whole brunt of responsibility, and all the complaints that normally arise.

Mr. ILSLEY: When I said I would welcome suggestions on how to ration sugar I meant exactly that. I asked for suggestions on how to ration sugar for canning purposes. I have not got any from the leader of the opposition, although he did start in to tell me that he was going to give me some. All he did was to tell me two things I should not do again. That is the extent of his suggestions.

Mr. GRAYDON: Exactly.

Mr. ILSLEY: He does not touch the central problem at all, namely, that of how I should ration sugar for canning among the population of this country. He has suggested one thing, namely, Do not decentralize; run it from Ottawa. That is what he said.

Mr. GRAYDON: The minister suggested a short time ago that words should not be put in his mouth. I do not want that, either.

Mr. ILSLEY: Well, that is what it meant.

Mr. GRAYDON: Will the minister accept my word? Surely he has not followed my point.

Mr. ILSLEY: What is it, then?

Mr. GRAYDON: The point I was making is this: Actually what happened was that the central authority had one policy and sent it out to the housewives of Canada, and then regulations were sent out some months afterwards to the local ration boards saying there would be no limitation.

Mr. ILSLEY: No.

Mr. GRAYDON: Perhaps I should not say that, because that is not quite fair. I did not mean that; after all, I do not wish to be unfair. But I think it had the same effect; that is, they put no limitation upon what the housewife was going to get.

Mr. ILSLEY: Correct.

Mr. GRAYDON: They did not say a single thing in the advertisement. They just asked the housewives to plan to can vegetables and fruit during the coming season. Why, there was a lot of stuff in the newspapers, and I have no doubt there was plenty on the radio—although I did not have time to listen to it as much as I should have liked to. But

[Mr. Graydon.]

word was sent across this country for the housewives of Canada to can, can, can! That is the point I am trying to make to the minister.

He asks about suggestions. Well, if I can make a suggestion as to what he should not do, why should I not? In effect, by telling him not to do it again, I am suggesting what he should do—and that is, that when he advertises next time—

Mr. ILSLEY: Oh!

Mr. GRAYDON: Now, then, the minister has asked for a suggestion—

Mr. ILSLEY: All right.

Mr. GRAYDON: When he advertises again, let him be frank with the housewives of Canada. Let him tell the people that when they do apply to the local ration board they may expect a definite limitation. Let him tell them that they are not likely to get more than fifteen pounds each in urban sections, and not more than twenty-five pounds each in rural sections.

Mr. ILSLEY: We did not say anything about fifteen pounds and twenty-five pounds.

Mr. GRAYDON: You did say something about fifteen pounds and twenty-five pounds, because I happen to have seen the instructions to the local ration boards. You did not tell the housewives that there would be any limitation. You said there would be fifteen pounds to urban and twenty-five pounds to rural residents, and by the time they got finished there was a hodge-podge and patch-work-quilt policy all over Canada which had been worked out for the housewives of this country. All the housewives are asking is fair treatment. They do not wish to be misled by the government. They will try to follow the instructions handed out by the local ration boards, and they will finally end up with a different result altogether.

Mr. ILSLEY: I just wish to come back to this: I have asked for suggestions as to how to ration sugar for canning purposes in Canada. I have got advice about how to advertise next year. But we have not reached the main question. We could do what they do in other countries. That is, we could give so much sugar per head of population for canning purposes. Then, if that were done, instead of being distributed on an applicant basis it would be distributed on a per capita basis over the whole population. We could do it in that way. It could be central, and it would be as rigid as it could possibly be. If that policy had been applied this year, the applicants would not have got as much per