

objected to regarding that incident was the apparent attempt being made by certain Liberal members to make political capital out of those speeches.

I want to assure you, Mr. Speaker, and the members of this house that the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis), about whose speech there was a lively discussion afterwards, himself a great war veteran with a creditable record, and with his eldest son, a boy of eighteen, now serving in the Canadian army overseas, had no intention of saying anything disparaging to the forces themselves. I am in agreement with the one constructive suggestion which he made on that occasion and which was entirely overlooked in the heated discussion that followed, namely, that when the coming redistribution bill is introduced, provision should be made to change the elections act whereby the men overseas may have the right to elect their own representatives to speak freely for them in this parliament.

I suggested at the beginning of these remarks that I would welcome a short debate on the address in reply in order that we may get down to the serious business of this session. I shall set forth a few matters which, in my opinion, constitute the main business of this session apart from the regular and routine business which will come before us. Our first obligation, in my opinion, is to strengthen and maintain the morale of our men overseas; for upon them, in the coming year or years, we shall in the final analysis depend for victory.

What distinguishes war from peace is the fact of sudden death. No amount of talk about the totality of modern warfare, no amount of talk about the privation of civilians or about equality of sacrifice should blind us to the contribution that our fighting men are called upon to make. Only those civilians who are suffering under the heels of soldiers in occupied countries of Europe, or those civilians in Russia and China who are starving and dying that their defenders may have bread and arms, can claim any right to share in the fame that these men will win. The first concern of these men overseas is, I take it, and I have talked with many hundreds from all parts of Canada from overseas during the recess, that we should in this country mobilize everything we have for a speedy winning of the war, in order that as quickly as possible the men may be able to return to their homes. I am confident that, should we bring into this house representatives of these armed forces to speak freely for them, they would support in this chamber measures for the mobilization of wealth, industry and man-power far beyond anything that this government has yet done.

The next concern of these men is with the opportunities which will be accorded to them on their return from overseas for rehabilitation in civil life. Anything that we can do by planning or by legislation which will provide for them the substance of that democracy for which they are fighting overseas will give them greater determination to win. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that nothing we brought down in this house last session is sufficient to engender any enthusiasm in the returned men. They are looking for something much more substantial than anything we have provided so far.

We propose to give to those who cannot find jobs \$9 a week if single, and \$13 if married. I am told that eight thousand of the boys who have gone overseas have married since they went there. Those among those eight thousand who survive the war will return to this country, without any homes, without any capital reserve, without any furniture, without anything to start a home except a wife, and possibly children. We have no right to ask them to spend any of their time in this country on \$13 a week. The least we can do is to see to it that they are kept on the country's payroll until we can find places for them in the civil life of Canada.

The people of Canada want to see this parliament get down to the business of making definite provision for a change-over in our production from war to peace, with as little loss of time as possible, when the war is over. During the war years we have just about doubled our capacity to produce. We can produce about twice as much now as we could in 1929, notwithstanding the fact that we have withdrawn so many of our men from peacetime or war-time production to the armed forces. The people of Canada are asking to-day, and they want an answer from this parliament, what use we intend to make of these increased facilities. Are we going to proceed, when the war is over, to use these facilities to produce the commodities they need, or do we intend to restrict production in order to increase prices and to increase profits as we did before the war began? The only assurance we have received so far from the government came from two cabinet ministers during the Winnipeg by-election. These ministers assure us that there need not be any unemployment, or any depression after the war, because we have many more factories and many more skills developed than we had before the war. That statement will provoke nothing but laughter and derision in any public audience to which it is made. During the depression there was not a community in this country which did not have factories and