

there was no likelihood of the place being closed. During the last week 300 men have been laid off and the people are quite concerned whether or not these ministers have decided to close up this establishment since their visit. I just wanted to bring this matter to their attention so that it will be on record. We shall probably hear something about it in the near future.

Another thing I ran into in London this week was a matter that concerns veterans. Trade schools for veterans have been set up and the men receive gratuities and allowances from the government to pay for their courses. When they finish their courses they want to get sets of mechanics' tools with which to carry on the trade they have learned. These men find that they cannot purchase these tools out of their gratuities until the accounting department has had time to figure out how much of their gratuity has been used up in the course. It takes from three to six weeks to do this accounting and these men graduate and are walking around for that length of time without any tools. This is merely a matter of mechanical detail which could be hustled along, and I have no further criticism to make.

Another matter in London that was brought forcibly to our attention this week had to do with veterans who have purchased homes since July 1, 1945, and who find they cannot get possession. It is quite true that some of those who purchased through trust companies or real estate dealers were advised that they would have to abide by the terms of the order regarding evictions; they bought homes subject to the present tenancy, but other veterans—I have several cases which I shall not go into—apparently purchased homes without knowing anything about these orders. For instance, the first man on my list was in Holland when the order was published. The department wrote him and said, "We cannot understand how you do not know about this order because it was widely publicized." But at that time this man was serving in Holland and he did not hear much about it. There are quite a few of these cases, and I trust that when the minister brings in any relaxation of the rental controls one of the first things to which he will give consideration will be to make it possible for veterans who have purchased homes in good faith to get possession of them. I know that an order to that effect might be abused if safeguards were not taken, because a lot of people would be urging veterans to buy homes so that they could purchase them from the veterans. But a deadline could be set to prevent that. These veterans are at a great disadvantage. They cannot get into their own homes and are living in single

[Mr. Manross.]

rooms with their families. The tenants will not get out of the veterans' homes because they say they do not have to get out and are not going to get out. The government should indicate to such tenants of veterans' homes that they should be looking for another spot, because it is likely that the controls will be released.

Another matter I want to bring up is consideration with respect to the Veterans Land Act homes in London. That matter has already been discussed in the house and I shall not go into it in detail today. The veterans held a meeting with a view to having the construction defects remedied, but they could not pin the contractors down to responsibility. In the first place, the contractors are not from London but moved in there from a distance, because the scope of the work was thought by the government to be beyond some of the local contractors, there being twenty-eight houses erected in one district and seventy-two in another. The veterans held a meeting of protest, and the Veterans Land Act officials were criticized—of course all officials are criticized—for having a take-it-or-leave-it attitude; if you do not like this, you can do that. A contractor would be ordered to paint a door and he would paint one side and not another. So the veterans called a meeting to protest. Two men attended that meeting, and I want to bring this to the attention of the government. They explained that they represented the London Liberal association to hear what the veterans had to say. They said this:

I don't know what the answer may be but if the Liberal association can give you an answer would you be willing to meet again to hear it?

I do not think any political association, mine, yours or anybody else's, should try to make political capital out of getting for the veterans the help to which they are really entitled. These veterans are entitled to good homes and to having construction defects remedied. I do not think it was proper for two officials of the Liberal association to go there and speak as they did. Of course I know the government can dismiss that by saying that the government cannot be responsible for irresponsible people. But these are not irresponsible people. They are responsible people; they are leading citizens of the town and officials of the Liberal association, and they went there as its representatives. At the same time they are circulating membership slips requesting anyone to join the Liberal association for the year 1947 for one dollar or more. Naturally they did not take these slips and pass them out at the veterans' meeting. But these canvassers are