

goods is maintained at a higher level than ever before. Let us remember that the first and foremost concern of labour is jobs and lots of them with good wages and good working conditions. The incentive to produce must never be allowed to weaken or else the administration of these grandiose schemes of social insurance will be like trying to spread an ounce of butter on an acre of bread—their benefits will hardly be felt.

Surely labour has a right to expect better consideration than the treatment accorded under the wartime wages control order, P.C. 9384, and by labour I mean to include organized labour, unorganized labour and that great section of salaried workers whose wages or salaries have been frozen by the government while their taxes and maintenance charges have been continually increasing. Why did the government not submit this wages control order to parliament by way of legislation, so that the people's representatives could express an opinion on it before it became law? Among other things this order, passed a month or so before parliament met, provided for the incorporation of the cost of living bonus into the wage rate structure and, at the same time, denied to labour that fundamental principle of British justice which declares that a man is innocent until he is found guilty. Against the provisions of this order labour has been raising its vigorous voice, and beside labour this Progressive Conservative party stands and joins in their chorus of protests. Why does the government continue studiously to ignore the leaders of labour and deny them a place in the formulation of policies affecting labour? Let us not forget that labour has its rights as well as its responsibilities and obligations. It has fulfilled its obligations at all times and will continue to do so in the future, but it must be also given its rights.

There is talk that the government is going to bring in a labour code wherein the jurisdiction of the federal government will apply to war industries only. This has not been announced because it is a matter of government policy, which apparently has not been quite completed. If this is so, the government is making a colossal blunder in flying in the faces of eight out of nine provinces in Canada who are in favour of a national code covering all industry. The whole project is thoroughly impracticable. Men and women working in a plant, partly on war orders and partly on peace-time work, will find themselves under different codes. People engaged in the same type of work, one producing for war and the other producing for peace, will find that their

conditions are regulated by different authorities altogether. The rapid change and transition from war-time activities to peace-time pursuits in itself will show how completely impossible the whole policy must be.

Labour and management must press forward in the future as two great and harmonious partners, under legislation designed to give justice to both. I call upon the government to cease this endless bickering in labour matters; and let us have a code covering all our industries. Then let labour and management sit down together and perfect that partnership which we know is possible, but towards the accomplishment of which no all-out effort seems to have been made.

The government has recently set up a War Assets Corporation, constituted for the purpose of disposing of war materials classified as surplus or obsolete. In the disposal of such material the greatest care and caution must be exercised. At the end of the war, surplus goods will include raw materials, and any indiscriminate disposal of these might very easily lead to the creation of monopolies by those obtaining them. Before the selling process gets under way, I believe that a judicial inquiry should be made into the details of materials purchased, cost prices and use made of them in so far as crown assets of Canada are concerned. The operations of the corporation should be carried out openly. The Canadian people are entitled to know whether value has been received for materials for which they were so heavily taxed. A report should be submitted for the scrutiny of the people of Canada, detailing value received for material classed as obsolete or surplus, and giving information as to the use to which it is being put.

In the war-time economy, many small businesses have been squeezed out of existence. The small storekeeper, the man running the little enterprise, the farmer and others, have suffered. The little fellow should have an equal opportunity to obtain the materials to be disposed of by the War Assets Corporation. It is the job of the government to give every opportunity possible to these people for expansion and prosperity in the post-war period.

It is true that the speech from the throne speaks of the establishment of an industrial development bank to assist in the preparation for the transition of industry from war to peace. I hope that the little man of Canadian business will get the same kind of treatment as big men when this bank swings into operation. There will be some lifting of eyebrows by the farmers of Canada when they find that the principle of credits as envisaged by the setting up of this bank has not been