

to my attention. I had intended referring to it in the house. The United States government has awarded the Medal of Freedom to Mr. Orchard for exceptionally meritorious service. As this is a most unusual distinction, I should like to inform hon. members of the reason for this recognition of a Canadian citizen. The International War Veterans Alliance, of which Mr. Orchard was president, is composed of members of the American Legion, the Canadian Legion, the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans and the War Amputations of Canada. It was founded with the purpose of promoting international good will and understanding among ex-service men and women on both sides of the international boundary. As a gesture of friendship, the Canadian members of this organization during the war set up in Winnipeg an information centre for members of the United States forces passing through Winnipeg. During the three years this booth was in operation, under Mr. Orchard's direction, service was rendered to 55,000 United States troops. I am told that Mr. Orchard personally was responsible for a great deal of the success of the work which was done. It is felt that the recognition he has been given is well merited.

#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

##### REQUEST FOR OBSERVANCE ON MONDAY OF VICTORIA AND DOMINION DAYS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. G. ROSS (St. Paul's): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I notice in the *Ottawa Journal* this morning reference to a suggestion in the *Kingston Whig-Standard* that our fixed annual and national holidays be observed on Mondays to give the general public the benefit of a few long week-ends, especially in summer. Victoria day falls this year on Saturday, which is a half holiday for most people. Dominion day comes on a Tuesday. Will the government consider having these holidays observed on Monday instead of Saturday?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I am only one member of the government, but I shall be pleased to have my colleagues join with me in considering this matter.

#### BUTTER

##### INQUIRY REGARDING FLOOR PRICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. E. DROPE (Northumberland, Ont.): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Will a floor price be put on butter this year?

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Mr. FRASER: Come on, answer. That is the first time the minister has been stumped.

An hon. MEMBER: That is the \$64 question.

Mr. DROPE: May I ask if I will get an answer to my question?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but I do not see any urgency in the question.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

##### REMOVAL OF OFFICE FROM SASKATOON TO WINNIPEG

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. DIEFENBAKER (Lake Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, arising out of a telegram I have just received from the Saskatoon city council with reference to the intended removal of the compensation claims branch of the unemployment insurance office from Saskatoon to Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the ground that the number concerned in Saskatchewan are so small. Will the minister state whether or not reconsideration will be given the decision to remove this office, by reason of the numbers who will be affected and who are subject to unemployment insurance in Saskatchewan?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): In the first place, Mr. Speaker, since many hon. friends in the opposition have discussed at length the size of the civil service and why the government has not moved with greater expedition in that regard, I want to thank the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) for raising this question. This office comes under the jurisdiction of the unemployment insurance commission. Since the war ended we have set in motion a policy to reduce the numerical strength of what was then known as selective service. The unemployment insurance commission decided that on the ground of efficiency, or they so inform me, this function of their work should be centralized in the city of Winnipeg. I am afraid that decision will have to stand; and might I say that to some extent this question does show the inconsistency of the opposition in these matters.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I asked a question; I made no suggestions—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. In spite of the rules I permitted the hon. member to put