

the House of Commons, and put it to work? I am thinking of the house as a whole, not of just the Minister of Finance.

Once in a while some one will break forth with a thought. We had an example when the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Mills) pointed out the danger of price control as it applied to beef cattle, and showed that the control did not give equal reward for the energy and industry expended in production. He pointed out the difficulties arising from bootlegging and black markets.

Once in a while an hon. member will rise in his place and point out the way through some of our difficulties. Only a short time ago the hon. member for Waterloo North (Mr. Breithaupt) made a suggestion. I shall have more to say on his point later with reference to wages. I should like to see emanate from this discussion a greater use of the brain-power and man-power of this Canadian House of Commons.

I suppose it was a dollar-a-year man or somebody else who originated subsidies calculated to keep down consumer costs, as well as the matter of bonuses. All this is fraught with danger. To my mind they are not the result of the considered opinion of the members of the Canadian House of Commons, and I think they should be. We are elected by the people. Of course we can review these matters; of course we can discuss them, but we are not doing enough of the actual work.

One of the most glaring examples of the absence of parliamentary control in these matters occurred a week ago last Thursday when the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) announced to the Canadian press that he would build up in his department an organization to take care of bonuses to farmers on farm products. The facilities of the House of Commons were open to the minister, but they were not used. I suppose he has a reason for that. The Canadian press were advised that the new organization would be in charge of recommendations for all subsidies and bonuses, including those which were at the time under the prices board. The news item stated that in the present fiscal year production bonuses and consumer subsidies would total around \$100,000,000.

Not only is this system of bonusing and subsidizing foodstuffs reacting unfavourably in the minds of the Canadian people, but there is also an unfavourable reaction in connection with subsidies paid to certain secondary industries. I should like to use an example which I am sure many will recall. It is probably not generally known, or not as well known as it should be that the soap industry of Canada is receiving large subsidies on production.

[Mr. J. H. Harris.]

Ordinary soaps are subsidized anywhere from thirty cents to one dollar per 100 bars, this subsidy being paid from the treasury of Canada. When one considers this in terms of a production of 60,000,000 pounds or more he gets some idea of the cost of subsidizing this particular industry.

The cost of the necessities of life must be kept down, but I would point out some of the weaknesses in the control of this particular industry, which happens to be one which I think illustrates the difficulty. The cost of maintaining the ceiling prices of September, 1941, will run into scores of thousands of dollars. Because the wholesalers had considerable floor stocks on hand, it was found necessary to push the ceiling price back to the price of June, 1941, with an added cost to the treasury of Canada of many thousands of dollars for this particular industry. Large sums of money which are paid out in advertising go into the cost of manufacturing this necessity. Every few hours during the day and during the night the radio blats out all sorts of advertising, stories of fiction, fact and fancy, the cost of which is added to the cost of this essential, namely, soap. If this House of Commons should determine that it was not necessary for the Canadian broadcasting corporation and the other broadcasting corporations to carry this advertising, that they did not need it to keep them going, I am satisfied that the industry would be prepared to economize in that regard and money would be saved for the treasury. To my mind this is price control which illustrates the lack of control.

People will use soap anyway. Perhaps if they did not pour so much down the sink and waste it, it would be better for our economy at the present time. They still believe that cleanliness is next to godliness and they will keep clean from the cradle to the casket. They also know that there is a war on. Hon. members know that there is a great shortage of the raw material which goes into the making of soap. As long as there is a shortage of that material, as long as this difficult time is on us, we should have a moratorium on wasteful expenditures of this kind. If the broadcasting corporation cannot balance their budget without the revenue they receive from this advertising, they might just as well fold up. The power could be saved for more essential war needs during the peak loads; or, if the power consumption is not serious, if it is not great enough to worry about, they could use a little canned music by taking some records off the shelves. In any event it would be just as elevating as the advertising propa-