

What were the serious economic circumstances which necessitated the Prime Minister's rushing into this action? We had a system of control before; how has it failed? How had the price situation got out of hand? In what way were economic circumstances in Canada more serious than in Britain, where the principle of fixing a ceiling only on certain commodities and allowing ordinary economic laws to operate with respect to the rest has been retained? Similarly in the United States.

The government should give us also a clear statement of the situation as it existed prior to the institution of price and wage control, and specifically a statement of the conditions which there was reason to fear had that policy not been instituted.

Price control does not meet the important problem of restriction of civilian consumption. Indeed, price control may well lead to increased civilian consumption, and the restriction on instalment buying will not curtail that sufficiently. The problem still remains of decreasing consumption of unnecessary goods, for two purposes: (1) the diversion of money which would be so used for the financing of the war effort, and (2) the progressive diversion of the plant and labour used in production of unnecessary consumer goods to production for the war effort. This problem has not as yet been faced with sufficient realism.

I wish to say something to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) with respect to the proposals he made in his last budget for the vacation by the provincial governments of the fields of income and corporation taxation. This subject is one of great importance, not only in relation to our war effort but in relation to the effect upon the taxpaying public. It is important to municipalities which heretofore have looked upon this source of revenue to round out their budgets. What has been done? We are near the end of 1941. Some of us have paid our 1941 municipal income tax. Are the municipalities to be compensated, and if so, at what level? Is it to be frozen on the basis of 1940 or 1941? What is the position of the provinces? Has the great and wealthy province of Ontario agreed to the proposals, and if so, on what basis? What are the compensations proposed to be given to this and other provinces? May I request the minister to inform the house on these matters?

I should like to speak briefly on certain international problems. There is the important declaration of the Atlantic—one of the most momentous statements ever uttered by men in authority. When I first read it, I was reminded of President Wilson's "fourteen points". It bears a close resemblance, but after careful study I think it goes much

farther. The principles enunciated have on the whole been well received by the democratic world. But I found on discussing the matter with certain people in England, with one or two leading personages, that every man has his own interpretation of the declaration of the Atlantic. If the statesmen of the world ever come into a round-table conference to work out the problems that arise out of the declaration of the Atlantic every nation will have its own interpretation, and that may be the weakness of it.

Over the week-end the Prime Minister made another journey to the United States. If it was a private visit to the president I have not a word to say, nor should I have. But if it had any international importance, the Prime Minister should so advise the country, and I invite him to do so. Are there any new commitments, and if so, what are they?

I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to detain the house at any greater length this afternoon. It may be that later an opportunity will be provided in committee for a detailed analysis of government policy and its implications. We of the opposition will require clear, specific and detailed information on every matter associated with the war effort. For example, we desire to have a full and complete report from the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) on the following subjects, and with respect to him I must say that he should take all the time he wants to get ready to reply; for I realize how tired he must be after his journey. We would like to know from him:

1. The ultimate objective in man-power which it is hoped Canada may contribute.
2. The present state of enlistment in the army, and, specifically, the following:
  - (a) The total number of men enlisted in the Canadian army in all its branches since the outbreak of war.
  - (b) The total number of men now serving in all branches of the Canadian army.
  - (c) The total number of men attested for service overseas.
  - (d) The total number of men now serving in overseas theatres of war.
  - (e) The total number of men serving beyond Canada but not in actual theatres of warfare.
  - (f) A statement as to the number of rejections of enlisted men sent overseas, men whom this country trained in Canada, then took overseas and trained them there, and then rejected as medically unfit or likely to become unfit for service; and the reasons for their rejection.

How many were rejected because of bad discipline records?