

for that. I shall not take time to mention them all, but I should like to bring to your attention, sir, a few points which I think are most important.

At the beginning of the war the wages of workers were frozen at a very low standard, the level which they had reached at that time. Not long afterward we began to see strikes. The wages of those striking employees were raised; one could foresee then that we were to have more and more strikes, because other groups of workers would also take some means of getting their wages increased, the same as those had done who had gone on strike. We have had a good many strikes since that time, and some of them have been very serious. I will mention only one, the strike in the steel industry a little while ago, one which was most damaging to our war effort.

We are told that our most important task is to win victory in this war, and that one must throw everything he has into the fight to make sure that we do win. But it seems to me that we have subordinated this most important matter of winning the war to that of maintaining the value of the dollar. That is why wages have been frozen at so low a standard and why we prefer to take action which may result in strikes involving serious loss of time and production in industry, instead of giving fairer wages to people who are obliged at this time to face heavier obligations. There is a danger of more strikes for this very reason. Following these strikes at the conclusion of which wages have been increased, the rest of the workers of Canada who do not belong to any union organization—farmers, the prices of whose products have been frozen at a low ceiling—all these workers are not pleased and will try in some way to obtain an increase in their revenues or wages. The government should take steps to prevent any more strikes which do harm to our war effort and might have the worst possible consequences.

There are other reasons why the people of this country are discontented—for example, the way sugar, tea, and butter are rationed, and the announcement of the rationing of meat in the same manner. Some weeks ago when I asked the minister if he could allow more butter to workers who are obliged to bring their meals to the shop and who were complaining of the lack of butter, he said there could not be legislation for each case. That is all right, but attention should be given to different classes, if not individuals. Take sugar; down in my constituency there is no railroad for a dis-

tance of two hundred miles along the coast, which is served by the water route. In the fall, merchants are obliged to bring in sufficient stocks to last until navigation reopens in the spring. Last autumn when they were making their provision for the winter there was a shortage of molasses and of different syrups, and the merchants could not bring in sufficient stock for the winter. That population, which is not a rich one, could not get enough sugar for its needs during the winter. I reported the fact to the authorities and they told me they could not make special arrangements for that section of the country. But people down there have been suffering much more than we in the cities do from the rationing of sugar. That section of the Gaspé coast is a special case.

Taking the population as a whole, the country with the city, there is another great injustice which could very easily be corrected. The people of rural districts, where there are no restaurants, where they can not go to public eating places for their meals, are affected to a greater extent by rationing than people in the cities, especially the well-to-do classes who may take two or three meals a day in restaurants or hotels, as in Ottawa. Those who take their meals in restaurants obtain a great deal of sugar, butter, tea, and so on, in addition to the amounts they are allowed under the ration. The restaurants are given large amounts of butter, sugar, and so on, and those who take their meals there are not required to surrender any coupons, so that they get much more of these things than people who work on the farms, in the factories, in the bush, in the mines—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The point was raised this afternoon as to whether on going into ways and means a discussion of this kind could be carried on, under citation 488. The hon. gentleman now is discussing the rationing of butter. On page 4 of the estimates I see several items under the headings "Production service" and "Marketing service", and it seems to me that the argument the hon. member now is presenting to the house might very properly be presented when those items are being discussed. That being so in my opinion citation 488 would apply, which provides that no matter may be discussed on the motion to go into committee of ways and means which can be dealt with by the house in some other manner.

Mr. ROY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I was explaining the amendment I intend to move at the conclusion of my remarks. Perhaps I