

Anti-Inflation Act

Commission and the modern theories of the last two or three years known as the Mundell-Laffer policies.

I would suggest that these six types of cost push inflation are the things on which the government should spend some time. These are the real causes of inflation, and the government should direct its attention to these, forgetting its public relations and its posturing with Bill C-73 and the amendments in Bill C-89. If the government forgot this nonsense in its fight against inflation this country would be better off. Bill C-73 and this amending bill are inflationary, and the more you repress inflation the worse it is when you take off these controls.

I am going to suggest that the minister is on a slippery slope with this type of legislation. He should spend his time getting at the basic causes of inflation. He is getting into this deeper, and now he is getting into the very doubtful constitutional aspects of dealing with the provinces. He knows that the courts must eventually rule on the legislation. He knows that the axe is going to fall for that reason at any moment, and by "at any moment" when dealing with the courts I mean several months. Therefore he knows in his heart he should get out of this silly control mechanism and get into the fight against inflation by using his time usefully.

I hope that in the budget, that should be coming up sometime this year or next year, and with these sessions of two or three years you never know when the minister will take into account this principle, taking to heart that in the budget he should take advantage of the fact that Canadians are the most saving people in the world, and the fact that savings are the key to the fight to stop inflation. I hope he will take to heart the fact that savings will provide the capital we need; the capital that is the cause of so much consumer expenditure. Everything in that budget should be to encourage the little people, the middle sized and the rich to save. The budget should be designed to encourage companies to save so that this money can be put into these tremendous development projects we need.

Secondly, I hope in this budget the minister's taxes are related directly to rewarding people who save and give us greater productivity. If you reward productivity and savings, automatically you get at most of the causes of inflation. Then you can turn this country away from a restrictive type of posture into one which expands in a positive constructive way. In this way we can get this country away from the attitude of restriction.

● (2130)

I know the chief advisers to the government for many years have fully believed that the way to run this country is to have everything possible controlled by them. They believe in restriction like a socialist used to at one time. They will work every minute of the day to give you restrictive policies. What we have learned by now is that when you have a government taking 40 per cent out of the wealth of the nation you reduce the efforts of the nation by that amount. Suppose that government money that was taken out of the nation's wealth was taken through a budget program of taxation aimed at rewarding savings and productivity, then instead of the government part being a load on the economy we would be co-operating and

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain).]

harmonizing with the economy and would get this country back to 100 per cent operation.

I have noticed in this last year or so that hardly anyone speaks any more about the fact that we have a 7 per cent unemployment rate. One of the ways to get extra wealth and to get at inflation is to get our people back to work. Give us the productivity so that we will have the savings in order to have the capital. This is a strong country. Let us get the country off the backs of the people and get it working with business and with the working man. This is the type of approach we should take.

Above all, Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Finance brings down his budget, let him get rid of those silly resource taxation proposals of the two Turner budgets of 1974. Get off the backs of our provinces. They have a right to live. Get off the backs of our resource companies. We will need them to develop our country. We do not want to drive them to the North Sea or to Indonesia. We have a great future in Canada if we could get the restrictive people in the Department of Finance off our backs. Make the budget a private enterprise budget. Make it one which rewards the person who saves and the person who produces. This country is strong and will be strong if we can get this government off our backs.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on Bill C-89. For those in this House who do not understand, or indeed who do not want to understand why 15,000 to 20,000 working men and women in this nation would converge on Parliament Hill as they did today, let me tell them, as one who grew up in the labour movement in this nation, that these men and women have fears, and indeed justifiable fears, that this legislation spells the end of the collective bargaining system in this nation.

As one who can recall the time he had to work in a coal mine for one dollar a shift, in the great, halycon and glorious days of a Liberal administration under the late lamented—I do not say demented—Mackenzie King, I can say this was a disgrace. This was the situation until a fool by the name of Hitler came along and gave us all a job. In 1940 we had reached the great sum of \$3 a shift. I have done some research and have found an envelope which shows I worked 4¾ shifts at \$1 a shift for a total of \$4.75. That was under a Liberal administration.

As one who worked in the mines in those days I knew that the only salvation for me and many like me was the unionization of the coal mines so that the miners could look forward to bargaining for fair play, fair pay, and fair working conditions. The collective bargaining system has been the cornerstone of security for the wage earner in this nation. This legislation, and the amendments we are debating at this time, do so much damage to the collective bargaining system as we have come to know it and rely upon it that, to all intents and purposes, it is destroyed.

The minute limits are introduced upon what a person or a union can bargain for is the very minute collective bargaining is replaced with compulsory arbitration. Of course it is easy for the government and others of like thinking to say this had to be done because otherwise these characters would go on strike. We have had many strikes. However, had there been leadership from the government