

bill which in a way extends controls. There is talk of decontrol, of a supervising committee: how will it be done, with whose co-operation, under what agreements? We are given no details. How are we to believe so readily a government that has given the Canadians proof of its dishonesty with regard to the promises it made at the time. So, we are asked to approve some kind of extension, with a committee whose task would be to supervise the decontrol period and make sure nothing upsets our economy again; it is hard to "upset" the present situation; though there is pressing need to improve the situation we are now experiencing.

It has already been said that the suggested decontrol formula could lead to interference with the provinces. Tonight, over the news, after a day spent in Quebec city where representatives of the provinces and the federal government spoke of work and the decontrol period, considerable concern was expressed, Mr. Speaker. We are concerned by the approach to be used by this review committee. We really wonder to what extent this government is giving itself an instrument allowing it to intrude in provincial jurisdiction and make decisions that already belong to the provinces. And if the information we got tonight is right, it was obvious that all provinces, and not only the province of Quebec, were very much concerned by the way this surveillance would be implemented. I understand the Quebec labour minister who expressed his concern and I take this opportunity to encourage government members to do their best to facilitate the necessary agreements and to respect provincial jurisdiction, and this applies not only to the province of Quebec but to every province.

If the government demonstrated its incompetence on that respect the legislation we have lived with since October, 1975, I repeat that it is difficult to believe in the efficiency of those measures. We wonder if this government will not try to obtain such an instrument, not within a year but in the next few months. I insist on the absolute necessity to get support from provinces, unions and management during that decontrol period. We must admit that without a commitment to get the co-operation from every sector of the economy to deal with a situation created by this government, we are in a dangerous economic deadlock.

Yesterday, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) blamed our leader for being pessimistic as we recognized that this government, with its accumulation of deficits, was on the verge of bankruptcy. And we must be careful according to our friends opposite because when we talk about the government's bankruptcy we are frightening investors and foreign countries. Those people hear the same information and read the same newspapers as we do and it is impossible to make them believe that everything is going fine, thank you.

Mr. Lachance: Only Rockefeller!

Mr. La Salle: Rockefeller is also concerned. He made a courtesy visit to Canada yesterday but he must also have read the newspapers and I think that Canadians are more worried and this is important, Mr. Speaker. Canadians are more worried and this is why I think it is essential in the coming

months to take the necessary steps to gain the support of union, provinces, employers and every sector of the economy. The government has shown a lack of leadership and is indeed caught in a trap and cannot free itself. It is not embarrassing to acknowledge the need for sensible advice from economic experts and the government should urgently appeal to those economic sectors which can provide some assistance in the public interest.

When I consider the special conditions in my province, I must point to this government that it must endeavour to obtain the co-operation of my province and avoid confrontations with the Quebec government, because it has chosen a special option which I and others do not approve. But I think we must respect provincial institutions and it is more urgent than ever to co-operate especially as far as this bill is concerned. And that cooperation is also essential in the case of the other provinces and that respect by this government for provincial jurisdictions is equally essential.

So I repeat that it is difficult to have faith in the legislation now before us in view of what we have had in the last two years. I hope we will be able to correct the present situation but we will be more successful if we can have faith in those sectors of the economy which could be well disposed at a certain moment if the government shows enough initiative to correct the situation. So I think it will be possible to get that cooperation which would allow us to restore an economic climate both in Canada and in my province, something which is necessary and urgent. We are concerned with that monumental failure and the repeated economic failures of this government but we are seriously wondering whether the best solution for the people of Canada might not be indeed a change of government. We hope that Canadians will have that opportunity to choose before long and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that we will be reminding this government of the kind of administration we had for the past ten years. And we will see whether Canadians have suffered enough or whether they can tolerate any longer this kind of administration. In the circumstances I hope this government will not pass this opportunity or call that I am making about the urgency of having the support of the important sectors of the economy represented by the provinces and the unions to make this a successful legislation. Should it meet the interests of Canadians I would be quite happy to make my modest contribution.

Mr. Lachance: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Lafontaine-Rosemont (Mr. Lachance) on a point of order.

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) would accept a question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is up to the hon. member to accept the question. His time has not expired, so the hon. member for Lafontaine-Rosemont could put his question.

Mr. Lachance: I want to ensure collaboration with provincial authorities and rightly so. Does the hon. member not feel