

*Supply*

nothing. To help this country, we have to get together and look together in the same direction.

To correct any impression I may have left with the hon. member that the problem rests with the unions, let me say now that the problem does not rest with the unions. The problem rests with the wage demands which all sectors are making. The sacrifice and the belt-tightening that is required to make us productive, to make us efficient as a collective group, must begin at all levels. It must involve executives, parliamentarians, public servants, unionized labour and non-unionized labour. It has to involve all of us.

It disturbs me very much, Mr. Speaker, when I hear spokesmen for the New Democratic Party preaching the gospel of the CLC to workers, encouraging them to put greater wage demands on the system, and arguing through the most convoluted logic one could ever imagine that these wage demands are not inflationary. It is distressing to me and to my colleagues.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Johnston:** As I have said, Mr. Speaker, we have this assembled group of bright young men in the New Democratic Party across the way. I even include the member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose), who I see has left his seat.

**An hon. Member:** He is at least bright.

**Mr. Johnston:** We should hear some constructive, thoughtful ideas, rather than the old, tired bromide of spend, spend, spend. It is very easy for those who are not responsible for government, for the raising of money, to recommend its expenditure.

I would like to add one footnote to my comments, Mr. Speaker. It concerns something I read in the *Montreal Gazette*. It is an important message that I am asking him to deliver to the labour movement. Yesterday, June 15, it was reported in the *Montreal Gazette* that:

The Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, representing more than 6,000 residential construction firms, has called on Ottawa to allocate \$600 million to revive the home building industry.

It has called on Ottawa, on the Canadian government, and that means calling upon the taxpayers, to allocate \$600 million to revive the home building industry. Yet, Mr. Speaker, with the housing market desperate for help, as the hon. member himself underlined, my colleague, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cosgrove), who is responsible for the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation, is of course very much concerned on a daily basis.

**An hon. Member:** You would never know it.

**Mr. Johnston:** He is concerned, inside this House and outside this House, as we all are, with this very important sector of the economy. It is not only concern for those people who require housing but concern about the impact that sector has across our whole industrial sector. As I say, with the housing market desperate for help, what do we see? We see

Ontario construction wage settlements increasing at the rate of \$2 per hour in each of the next two years, which is something in the neighborhood of 15 per cent.

**Mr. Blais:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I simply want to indicate to the Chair that I would have liked to participate in this debate, had the opposition—

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Blais:** —had the opposition not provoked another discussion and deprived this House of an hour and a half which we could have used for a very interesting debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. The hon. member for Richmond-South Delta.

**Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta):** Mr. Speaker, it is commendable that Her Majesty's opposition has been granted five minutes to engage in this debate. I suppose we might thank the hon. member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) for that pleasure, he having delayed the House for an hour and a half earlier this afternoon.

I listened very carefully to the speeches made by the hon. member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) and the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston). I might be moved to say a pox on both their houses, but I would not want to provoke an argument at this late hour. Leave it to be said, Mr. Speaker, that it was interesting that the President of the Treasury Board, who is responsible for the largest labour union in Canada, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, has not shown the kind of resolve, in terms of confronting the wage expectations of Canadian workers, that he advocated in this House this afternoon.

If we look back to the resolution of the postal strike last summer, where that minister approved a substantial increase, and together with the cabinet approved a 22 per cent increase in the budget of the Government of Canada, as put forward in the November budget, it is just appalling that he should exercise such hypocrisy in this House.

Although the hon. member for Kamloops-Shuswap spoke with such doom and gloom, with all of the statistics that underscore the tremendously devastating situation that confronts our economy, it was remarkable to note that his closing five minutes dealt with solutions.

Let me list some of those solutions, Mr. Speaker. There was a \$500 million mortgage subsidy program, which would bring rates down to 1 per cent above prime. Yet, Mr. Speaker, he is a member of the same party that voted against the mortgage tax credit program in December of 1979. That program would have brought a \$2 billion benefit to Canadian home owners this year by way of a 25 per cent subsidy on mortgage interest. That would have gone a long way to resolving that problem. He was part of an opposition which moved that motion and defeated a government which had positive solutions for Canada.