

was an absolute failure in that department, and we certainly hope he is more successful in his new role.

The hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Martin) this afternoon referred to the Anti-Inflation Board and was very critical of the official opposition for not having voted for the anti-inflation program that was brought forward last year by the Liberal government. The reason we could not support the government's anti-inflation proposals are set out by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Clark). I would like to use the words of the Leader of the Official Opposition who put it so well in a recent speech when he said:

One remarkable fact about the throne speech is that the government now proposes 'to begin' consultations with the other partners in the Canadian economy. They are going to begin consultations 12 months too late.

It was interesting to hear the comments of the hon. member for Scarborough West this afternoon in respect of the consultation process, which certainly has not been a priority of the Liberal government in the past. The Leader of the Official Opposition went on to say:

That demonstrates the difference between the Stanfield proposal of controls with consultation, and the Trudeau program of controls by surprise. We proposed a program that would start with a freeze to allow all the partners to participate in designing controls. When Mr. Trudeau stole that program, he rejected the process of consultation which was the mechanism essential to make the program work. He did not talk to labour, or to business, or the provinces. Apparently he didn't even accept the advice of the officials of the Department of Finance whom, we understand, told him that if he was going to steal the Stanfield program he should steal all of it, including consultation.

It is also very interesting to note that the present government is very anxious to consult with everybody now that it has the latest opinion polls. The government certainly was not interested in consultation with anyone prior to the results of the latest Gallup Poll.

The Leader of the Official Opposition also said:

But Mr. Trudeau preferred his own advice to that of everybody else, and he rejected consultation when he imposed controls. Now he is prepared to begin, after 12 wasted months. If there had been consultation at the outset, as we proposed, there would have been no need for a day of protest. There would have been less need for the constant changing of the rules of the Anti-Inflation Board. There would have been less hostility, and much more partnership.

There are many areas which are not covered by the Anti-Inflation Board regulations, such as public utilities. The low income people are still under the Anti-Inflation Board rules and regulations, but we see that water rates have doubled and that hydro bills are going up, none of which are under the guidelines of the Anti-Inflation Board. This is what makes it such a farce.

The hon. member for Scarborough West, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the hon. member for Eglinton gave great praise to this government and the brilliant job it is doing. It is too bad they were not in tune with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). It is interesting to note that the Prime Minister when he was in Saint John stated that the Liberals had lied on the controls issue during the 1974 election. He went on to say:

'Why did we lie to you? Unless we can explain the flip flop they have the right to say this' government has lost its credibility.

That is an understatement.

Canadian Trade Policy

Then just recently in Montreal the Prime Minister, when speaking to the Federation of Automobile Dealer Associations, said:

... before we can even begin to solve the problem of your business and our laws, we have to solve a much more basic problem—the understanding between government and the people.

People are not satisfied, and God knows they have cause not to be satisfied in our country—the way we've bungled things.

So, Mr. Speaker, by the Prime Minister's admission this country is being governed by a bunch of bungling liars. Members of this government stand up today praising this brilliant administration, while the Prime Minister goes around the country saying that they are liars and bunglers. What can we expect from them next?

● (2030)

On this great performance of this government we see that in the first six months of this budget year the deficit will be \$3 billion, and at the end of September of this year the federal government has spent \$3 billion more than it has received. I did not hear any comments on this today and I do not see anything brilliant about this. This is unreal. The estimate of the total deficit for this year will be \$6 billion. When the Liberals took over in 1963 the total budget was \$6 billion; now we have a \$6 billion deficit, and they sit over there glaring and patting themselves on the back. Look at the hon. member for Scarborough West who is smiling. He thinks this is just wonderful. It is an absolute disgrace and it should wipe that smile off his face.

What do we get? We get cabinet ministers going around the country talking about bilingualism. I would like to see them come out to Winnipeg. Let us talk about the \$6 billion deficit. What will they do about that? Never mind bilingualism which everybody in this country is opposed to in the way it is implemented, and let us get down to the real issues, the economic issues. They are afraid to discuss these.

Then there is the matter of government secrecy. One of the essentials of a true democracy is that the people and their representatives have the knowledge, and that the political opposition be able to challenge the government on the basis of that knowledge. Do the citizens of the Yukon have the right to know which restaurants were serving them food with unsafe levels of bacteria, and should not the people of Pickering be given a fair start on their airport battle at Pickering by being given access to government reports prepared with the people's tax dollars? The government rejects its duty to account for its actions and is telling its critics that they do not know the facts and it is better for them not to know. In that sense we do not have good government in Canada. Of course this is an admission by the Prime Minister himself. A long step toward making government responsible to people could be a law spelling out and enforcing the public's right to know.

I should like to comment on an article contained in the October edition of *The Parliamentarian*. It is an excellent article that has been submitted by the Leader of the Official Opposition in which he comments on freedom of information. He states: