And on the same page:

The oil increase will cause the price of . . . vegetables to rise.

I have here another article and I will just quote its heading:

22% increase in housing.

Here, analyses are made on consumption.

Here is another article from *Le Nouvelliste* which will surprise many people. I am sure that no one suspected that and I quote:

Oil firms subscribed $49 million to Nixon's campaign.

In *La Tribune* of January 2, 1974, there is an article headed "Oil: Quebec disadvantaged". In the December 24, 1973 issue of the same paper, one can read the following heading: "Inflation and unemployment cast their shadows over expectations for Canadian economy."

In the same newspaper of December 20, 1973, we read that:

Although the average salary has been increased by $12.08 from October 1972 to October 1973, it was not compatible with the 9.3 per cent rise in the cost of living for the same period.

This, Mr. Speaker, proves what I have just stated. And to add to the picture, *La Presse* of February 16, 1974, informs us that we have now 240,000 unemployed people in the province of Quebec—9.5 per cent.

In that respect, here is the conclusion reached by the right hon. Prime Minister and offered as a Christmas gift. I quote a headline of the December 23, 1973 issue of *La Tribune* " . . . It is a distress sign of the Earth . . . ". These are the now famous words of the right hon. Prime Minister about the oil crises. "A distress sign of the Earth". It is self-explanatory. No solution, just a statement. But in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, this does not prevent the oil companies from making profits. Our Food Prices Review Board, under the presidence of Mrs. Plumptre who is overpaid at $40,000 a year, establishes simply that prices increase and cannot do anything about it.

Mr. Speaker, people in our ridings do not tolerate this anymore. We were told to fight in this House to convince the government that powers be given to the board, that measures be taken to prevent abuses and to end the exploitation of those who cannot afford such a critical inflation which is out of control.

I want to attract the attention of the right hon. Prime Minister who honours us with his presence to remind him that the individual's purchasing power is a most important issue. As I was reading the speech terminating the last session, I noticed in fact that the Prime Minister believed "that the productive capacity of the economy had reached its physical limits in Canada", in other words, that production was at a maximum level.

Also, the right hon. Prime Minister cannot ignore that Canadians from coast to coast are totally excluded from the economic flow, and because of their lack of income are unable to keep up with these cost-of-living increases.

Mr. Speaker, the right hon. Prime Minister will also recongize that for the last 10 years at least, successive government measures have all been directed towards production growth. They invested in production through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Industrial Development Bank. It has been announced in the Speech from the Throne that a new federal bank will be established. I do not want to judge the value of these programs, but I simply want to enumerate them to suggest to the government that large amounts were invested in production but that not much has been done yet as regards consumers, Mr. Speaker. A few efforts were made, such as the old age security pension, family allowances, but when the latter are granted, Mr. Speaker, they are taxable so that the purchasing power at the end of the year does not increase. They even made some calculations and, in some cases, they will give people, through family allowances, less money than before. Why? Because they are taxed.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people want to build their country. Five years ago, for instance, when we passed in this chamber some measures designed to discourage agriculture by imposing controls and quotas on production because there was a surplus, the problem, consequently, did not lie in production at that time, Mr. Speaker, but in the distribution of products. There are people who are exploiting and abusing our wealth, Mr. Speaker—and I say so while I strongly believe, as my colleagues, in private enterprise—who take advantage of the situation and who exploit people and who, therefore, make us believe that there is in Canada a shortage of products, which is not true. Everybody must admit that there is no shortage of products in Canada. We have enough oil. We have enough wheat. We have enough milk producers. We have enough cheese. We have adequate supplies of almost all commodities that we need in order to secure a good quality of life. What we need, Mr. Speaker, is a distribution system that would be equitable and fair for all Canadians.

When I am told that there is concern about that problem I will have to part with those people and discuss very strongly because that is untrue. For example, there is talk about the oil policy at a time when supply is very high. It will have taken a crisis, it will have taken hand-outs from the government to oil companies for them not to increase their prices, it will have taken an extraordinary crisis to realize that we have resources in the west but, on the other hand, that there was a shortage of products so that we have high prices for those products. Who pays for that, Mr. Speaker? The people.

In Canada we have what is needed and because we did not foresee the use of those resources we ended up with one policy and two sets of weights; in other words, Quebecers are now paying more for oil than all other Canadians. Is that fair? The problem is in the distribution of that resource that is oil and that distribution should be thought out by the government so that all Canadians wherever they live will be treated on an equal basis. Such is not the case now and Quebecers among others and the rest of this country are paying for that policy.

Let us take, for example, wheat which was controlled. There was a time when producers were even paid not to sow, not to produce. We have now been told that there is an alleged shortage of products. That finally results in high prices. Who pays for that policy? Again the other part of this country because we did not set up any distribution system so Canadians would actually be treated on an equal basis.