

flexibility should apply to everyone. That is my idea of social justice and of the industrial peace flowing from it. Who nowadays can afford to enter into a two or three year business contract without protecting himself against rising prices? Clever businessmen do not make such deals. Why should we ask workers to do so?

Mr. Speaker, I was saying at the outset of my remarks that inflation is endangering the structures of our social order. We have here a perfect example of that. I dare say that the traditional ways of thinking have no value today. That is the great challenge of inflation. Ever rising prices forces our society, which is based on relatively static structures, into motion. We must learn to move, to change our concepts, to adjust, and at a faster rate, otherwise this thrust will get the better of our resistance.

I believe that principle should apply even in cases where a collective agreement is already in force. I am not pleading in favour of those who decide to disregard the commitments they have accepted through a collective agreement. But I will not cast a stone at them either. What does an agreement mean when the terms that led to it are changed? In a strictly legal sense, it is understood that the collective agreement remains valid. But how can one expect the workers, who feel that they were the victims of circumstances, to still be motivated to meet those obligations? Existing contracts that do not include any indexation clauses are a framework within which workers feel more and more cramped.

I believe employers should realize how urgent it is to change those agreements so as to provide for automatic indexation to price movements and that they should allow their employees the same flexibility they enjoy in setting prices for their products. Inflation has gone beyond the rate of wage increments provided for in collective agreements. There can be nothing but chaos and troubles if the situation is not corrected. It is therefore quite relevant that the throne speech dealt with labour strife and the cancellation of contracts as a result of inflation. I am pleased that the government considered those factors in outlining its program to counteract inflation.

In conclusion, may I refer to a development which concerns me greatly because it affects a large number of people in the riding I represent. Mr. Speaker, when a labour dispute breaks out, some are quick to blame organized labour for the results of the work stoppage. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to dispute the validity of such an attitude.

The situation we live in impels me to conclude that, quite to the contrary, some employers jeopardize the social order that prevails in the country by taking an unbelievably provocative and intolerant attitude. Let me refer for instance to the current dispute at the United Aircraft of Canada Limited, of which we were made acutely aware on the government side by the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Olivier). Mr. Speaker, that industry is doing business in Canada and for ten months now it has categorically refused to bow to Canadian traditions with regard to industrial relations.

● (1540)

Following this unfortunate incident of violence, we were informed by newspapers that one of the matters preventing the settlement of the conflict was that the

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employer refused to adhere to the union security system, the so-called "Rand formula". That formula, Mr. Speaker, is part of our Canadian customs. It has been developed by a distinguished law officer who gave it his name. It is part of the Canadian reality too, so much so that the federal government thought it wise to make it compulsory for all the undertakings affected by Canada Labour Code.

Now, this firm, under provincial jurisdiction, systematically refuses to admit this reality. And yet we are surprised to see workers getting impatient after striking for ten months. I would like to convey my fullest sympathy to those workers who fight in order to obtain an advantage which is generally recognized throughout Canada. I think that the employer's position not only is unexplainable but that it gets fraught with consequences.

As I conclude, Mr. Speaker, let me mention the case of the grain handlers' strike. Here is another situation that can develop into social chaos due to the mere fact that the employers are refusing to acknowledge the merits of the report of the commissioner-conciliator, Dr. Neil Perry. The employer sticks to his position, although he knows that the government will not be able to indefinitely tolerate this work stoppage and that its legislative intervention will reflect the contents of the Perry Report. The Speech from the Throne did mention that this matter will be brought before the House because of the employers' obstinacy in failing to approve the solution suggested by Dr. Perry.

Earlier in my remarks I said that the present government must face great challenges. I look to the future with great confidence and enthusiasm. However, I am aware of the necessity for Canadian employers to become more flexible in their approach to the social and economic reality. It is in their interest. Our society can afford to develop, while enabling its citizens to progress and have their place under the sun. I am convinced that the steps taken by this government, as mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, will contribute to such an achievement, by minimizing the effect of the rise in prices and by making sure that the economic burden laid upon us will be borne by all in Canada. I am proud to belong to a team that is going in that direction.

[English]

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wish to discuss the direction of Canada's foreign policy. As most members of the House know, Mr. Ivan Head, the Prime Minister's special adviser on foreign affairs, is reported to have spoken of a new activist role for Canada on the left wing of international affairs, and of Canada's intention to take a more moralistic approach to international problems, an approach similar, although not necessarily identical, to that of Sweden. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has repudiated this account of his views. I have no difficulty whatsoever in accepting Mr. Head's statement that he was misinterpreted.

● (1540)

However, I wish to say that I earnestly hope the Prime Minister and the government, particularly the new Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), will in fact take an active, humanitarian and enlightened attitude toward international affairs. I do not care whether