

[Translation]

**Mr. Grafftey:** I note, Mr. Speaker, as I have often noted before, that for five years under the present government we have been setting new unemployment and inflation records. This is simply due to the fact that the present government has no policy regarding prices and incomes.

[English]

There is an area of finance or economics. I must make a confession to you, Mr. Speaker; I am not well versed in it—but I will only tell you what the people tell me. The right hon. gentleman alluded to it this afternoon.

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

**Mr. Grafftey:** What has happened in the last four years? The right hon. member for Prince Albert told us that they had a Lift program in the west. They told the farmers not to plant wheat. Within the last three or four years eastern farmers have been put on milk quotas. The government told the farmers three or four years ago to take it easy because we had huge milk surpluses. At the expenditure of millions, almost billions of Canadian tax dollars, the government told the farmers not to grow wheat and not to produce milk products. Three or four years later, I am told by people in my riding that one does not need a college education to determine that we are now faced with skyrocketing dairy product prices and skyrocketing bread prices. What kind of sense is there in such a policy?

Will the government come forth today and express to us and then to the Canadian people what in the world they have been doing in the last five years? This underlines ably one of the things I have been saying for years about the present economy. The Liberals call themselves socialists not in a hurry, the NDP call themselves Liberals in a hurry, and what we get in this country so often is half socialist, half free enterprise measures that do not work. What is more, the government wastes billions and billions of Canadians' tax dollars. How long will we have to call this a minority government? How long will the people of Canada be faced with this Liberal-Socialist coalition?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Wait until the next election.

**Mr. Grafftey:** I cannot wait for it. We are ready.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Grafftey:** As I have said, the finance minister and then the Prime Minister rise in the House and say that they cannot do anything about wage and price controls that this is a federal state and consultation with the provinces is needed. That is exactly what the Leader of the Opposition has said. One thing that a price freeze will do is to give us the 90 days or whatever is needed to consult with the provinces. What does the government do? They go straight ahead where some people fear to plunge. Trust the present government! What do they do? They apply anti-inflationary measures not within federal powers, without consulting the provinces. The principles and policies to encourage increased food production and reasonable returns to farmers are subject to federal-provincial agreements. They know that.

### *Cost of Living*

The removal of the 2 per cent ceiling on the annual escalation of pensions paid under the Canada Pension Plan is legally subject to agreement by the provinces. They know that. There is no time for consultation. Increased social assistance to the poorest families in Canada is entirely dependent upon the financial ability of the provinces. The 5 per cent subsidy per quart of milk and the equivalent reduction on a package of powdered skim milk would only be paid when and if provincial marketing boards agreed to maintain or reduce the cost of milk for at least one year.

● (2040)

Then we have this situation. The federal government must reach agreement with the provinces and industry to extend pipeline facilities so as to enable Canadian oil to be shipped into Montreal. What a beautiful one that is. It was mentioned last week by the minister. However, it is off again this week. We are told they are backing away. What a silly way for federal government to act in a federal union such as Canada without even consulting the provinces. There is this whole list of things in which consultation is needed if we are to have a reasonable degree of control in this country.

[Translation]

This is exactly the position of the Leader of the Official Opposition regarding price and income control. It is obvious.

[English]

When all the shouting is over—and I am sure there are some who feel I shout a bit too much—someone will ask: Why an incomes and wages policy? Again it must be repeated that virtually all western economies today have some form of incomes policy. This government will paralyse the economy for the sake of power. We can act in only two ways. One is by using fiscal and monetary policy alone and putting many thousands of Canadians out of work. The present government did that a couple of years ago. I am sure they will not do it again. Then there are fiscal and monetary policies and an incomes policy as advocated by the Leader of the Opposition and this party. Members opposite do not listen, in any event. They know how they are going to vote. Members to my left have decided, and should not even participate in the debate.

In conclusion, let me point out that during the last three days the Leader of the Opposition was in my part of the world. People on fixed incomes, farmers and pensioners came out in their hundreds to tell the government to get things moving. People are suffering because of the government's policy. They told the Leader of the Opposition, myself and the press who were present that inflation and the high cost of living composed the number one domestic issue facing this country. Everywhere we went they had the same thing to say. The right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert alluded to it this afternoon.

What a mockery of parliament it is for the leader of the NDP, before the debate gets under way, to be in such a hurry to support this government. He reminds me of a man who says, "I have made up my mind. Don't confuse me with the facts". Is this a debating chamber, or a rubber stamp? It is a rubber stamp. The young and the old in my riding who have been following public affairs since they