

of imported goods and therefore would not work. The government admits it will not even attempt to control the price of imported goods. How many component parts going into goods manufactured in Canada are imported? Quite a few.

I do not see how this legislation can work. What will it control? There is some suggestion that it might control the prices of manufactured goods. Let us take a look at how this can be done. Let us look at page 17 of the white paper where it is stated under the heading "Firms which are unable to allocate costs to individual products":

If a firm finds it impossible to allocate costs to individual products, it should price its products in such a way as to leave its percentage pre-tax net profit margin no higher than 95 per cent of its average percentage pre-tax net profit margin—

You can see the foolishness of this. If you cannot allocate costs, how can you say it will be 95 per cent of the previous year's costs? Anybody who has taken grade 12 math could fix the books so that the allocation is only 95 per cent of last year's costs. The next paragraph, under the heading of "Definition of costs" reads:

The regulations will include a detailed list of items which should be excluded from allowable costs. Included in this list will be such items as losses resulting from occurrences which are not typical of the normal business activities of the supplier—

So you can exclude a lot of things.

Then we come to the next paragraph headed "Frequency of price changes". It reads:

Firms are expected to refrain from increasing the price of any individual product more frequently than once every three months—

I have heard about inflation being calculated yearly, semi-annually and quarterly, but I did not know it was permissible to increase the price of goods under this freeze every three months. What will this do? It will clearly apply a freeze on wages.

I know it is popular today to condemn the workers, but the way to control inflation is to increase productivity. If you freeze workers' wages, do you think they will produce more? This party believes in increasing workers' wages to obtain greater productivity. If you allow a businessman to make a profit, he can plough that profit back into his business. A labourer with proper tools can produce more goods, and only through the production of more goods can we bring about a cure to inflation.

Then we have the grave matter of Canadian ownership and investment. If we freeze dividends, where will we find any money that is free in Canada? It will all go to the United States to make money for the companies down there, and the dividends will not be frozen.

In my view this bill is a shocking admission of the ineptitude of the government, and I think it should be and will be rejected by all Canadians as soon as they learn the truth about what this white paper encompasses.

### Adjournment Debate

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

VETERANS AFFAIRS—PROPOSED CAMP HILL COMPLEX AT HALIFAX—DATE OF TENDER CALL

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, before I raise the topic which brings us here this evening, may I announce the baseball World Series present score for those who stayed here assiduously and did not go to the lobbies. It is: Boston 4, Cincinnati nothing; and Mr. Luis Tiant is still chewing his original wad of tobacco.

I hope I and the veterans of Nova Scotia will find out the future of the proposed rebuilding of the Camp Hill veterans' complex. This prompted my question the other day to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald), and brings me here this evening to find out what, if anything, is to be done to this building.

● (2200)

The Minister of Veterans Affairs in a speech to the 1975 convention of the Royal Canadian Legion held in Halifax on May 18 of this year noted:

There are about two million potential clients of the Department of Veterans Affairs—veterans and the dependants of veterans—in Canada today.

The department's responsibility to them, far from decreasing, has probably not yet reached its peak. As the average world war two veteran is still below normal retirement age, the number of DVA clients is growing larger, and will continue to do so for at least a short period of time before it starts to decline.

A few moments later in that same speech the minister said, "The department has 17,000 such clients in Nova Scotia".

It might be noted that Halifax is the metropolitan centre for Nova Scotia, indeed for Atlantic Canada, and attracts patients from many parts of the province to its hospital, so I think the problem of what to do about this aging hospital, built sometime around the second world war or immediately after—and of wooden buildings at that—is an appropriate one to raise here this evening.

On October 22 of last year I joined the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs briefly to ask about Camp Hill, and one of the replies given to me by Dr. A. F. Jones, Director General, treatment services, Department of Veterans Affairs on that occasion is found in the minutes, issue No. 2 of that committee, as follows:

The target dates for the planning are one year from September, and hopefully the tenders will be let a year from September. This was the target frame proposed at the time the announcement was made.

I said: "A year from last September," and Dr. Jones said: "That is right."

September has come and gone, but the hospital tenders have not been called. I gather that the hold up may be some negotiation with the provincial government which might deal with a widening of the use of the hospital, beyond the purely curative treatment of veterans, into