

*Anti-Inflation Act*

had not considered this matter. He said there were no public works or enterprises to be undertaken that would provide basic sustenance other than that obtained through the normal channels of welfare, unemployment insurance and the other schemes we have devised to help those who are unable to look after themselves.

I predict that in six or eight months it will be obvious to all Canadians that we are not accomplishing what we want to accomplish by this anti-inflation measure. Canadians want to see the beginning of a decrease in the cost of living so that organized labour does not have to chase after increases to cover the increasing cost of living. Canadians want to see a beginning, through normal restraint, in our attempt to live within our means. This legislation is not going to accomplish that because it is not going to control the prices the housewife will be looking at when she goes to the grocery store.

This legislation will not accomplish what we desire, because it will not help workers and people on low or fixed incomes to pay the increases in rent, the cost of cars or the many other increasing expenditures necessary in our day-to-day existence. Unless we can assure the workers, those on fixed incomes and those unable to look after themselves that there is to be a decrease in the cost of living, any talk about anti-inflationary legislation will only be talk and will not accomplish anything and, therefore, will not deserve the support of the people of this nation.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Rocky Mountain.

**An hon. Member:** The rocky member for Hamilton!

**Mr. Gus MacFarlane (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I am not running for the leadership.

**An hon. Member:** With your record, you shouldn't.

**Mr. MacFarlane:** I think the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Clark) has a good maritime background, so I think that he and I would have some things in common, and we both have great respect for the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Stanfield). That actually gives me a good lead into my remarks, in that I want to say that I, for one, have said in all sincerity, even during a recent election campaign, that I do not doubt the sincerity of the hon. member for Halifax even though I may disagree with his timing and some of the substance of his suggestions. We have reached the stage now when I do not find it difficult to accept fully the premise put forward by this government. In saying that, I know I will have to answer to my constituents who heard me talk about prices and wages in a derogatory way at the time, and I have no embarrassment at all about this.

**An hon. Member:** Yes, but I do.

**Mr. MacFarlane:** That is your problem; it is certainly not mine. It is important to remember that some adjustments always have to be made, and if we truly look at this proposal for what it is—

**Mr. Stanfield:** When the wind shifts, you have to shift your sails.

[Mr. Peters.]

**Mr. MacFarlane:** Yes, sometimes we do. At this time we have to remember that when we are talking about a war—and some people have referred to this as a war—you do not always win the war just because you have won certain individual battles. I think that is the situation we are facing. We now have to look at the long-haul situation. We have, again, to make the efforts we made in the past. We must really consider the situation that existed in the past.

When we are considering our youth at this time, we must realize that those of us who served in the Second World War, and our fathers before us who served in the First World War, did indeed believe we were serving for reasons that were ultimately important to all of Canada. Those of us here who did not serve during a wartime period did not have that particular challenge, but whether they like it or not, we all served in that regard and now hope that today's youth will not be called upon to meet a similar challenge.

The challenge before us today, if properly put to our young people, may well be a challenge to which they will respond. It is likely that we will have to call upon the "one dollar a year men". If we were justified in calling upon people to come out of business activity and work for a dollar a year ferrying aircraft overseas during the last war, then surely we should be able to call on senior business personnel to work for a dollar a year during this war on avarice. Why can't we call on our leaders in very senior positions to serve in capacities in which they would not be a drain on the government but could help us in this war on avarice?

We should have no doubt about the situation, because this is a war on avarice. We should not say that the situation we are faced with today is the fault of one government, the fault of a series of governments, the fault of a group of workers, or the fault of a group of people who are trying to take too much out of the economy. This is a war on avarice. Let me give hon members the example of an advertisement that appeared in a newspaper yesterday. Can you imagine someone advertising that they will cash post-dated old age pension cheques for a charge of 10 per cent? Imagine someone at this point in time wanting to make 10 per cent from an old age pension cheque because the cheques were mailed out early in the event of a postal strike! This would seem to indicate that there is a tremendous problem facing the country at this time.

We all have to get into the fray. We all have to be ready to stand strong in this economic fight. There is just no doubt in my mind about whether we can get the proper response from the youth of the country as well as from the aged. Many of these pensioners are the people we could call upon to assist us. There are many of us here who would be willing to perform extra tasks without looking for extra benefits and still withstand the criticism we are receiving for taking the raise which was voted in this House. We do not feel that the situation at this time makes us any better or any worse than anyone else. We feel that the public of Canada is ready to respond to the clear clarion call to come forward to fight in the battle in this war on avarice.

We suggest that this measure should be in existence for a long-term period in order to avoid some of the pitfalls that have occurred in other countries and on other continents. It does seem that when a definite and short period of time is set out, there is a feeling among the people that