

billion will be collected from taxpayers. That is a lot of money! The purchasing power of each taxpayer will be reduced by that much; so each Canadian will be deprived of that much that could be used to dispose of our production in Canada.

Another way for the government to apply its monetary or tax policy so as to finance itself is by borrowing, not on the Canadian market or from the Bank of Canada, but from other countries.

Mr. Speaker, in the booklet entitled *How your tax dollar is spent* put out recently by the Treasury Board it is stated, and I quote:

Canada's public debt amounted to \$38 billion in October, 1970,—

Here is what is said about the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) on page 23, and I quote:

—and the Minister of Finance has forecast new government borrowings of \$1.9 billion in 1971-72—

Let us not forget either what is written further on, same page:

Paying the interest and other charges on this debt is going to cost \$1,995 million in 1971-72, or 14 cents of your dollar.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the government claims that its only sources of financing are taxes, which reduce the buying power of Canadians, the system of everlasting debt by resorting to foreign capital. It means that, in both cases, the indebtedness of Canadians is increased and that, consequently, taxpayers lose the buying power which would allow them to purchase consumer goods.

We of the Ralliement créditiste, say to the government that the first thing it must do to finance itself is to resort to the Bank of Canada and order it to put the necessary money in circulation, by issuing new lines of credit according to the balance between aggregate production and aggregate consumption in Canada. Let this balance be transformed into credit to the consumer under the form of national dividends and compensated discounts which would allow the taxpayer to buy the accumulated production.

Mr. Speaker, the other serious mistake of this government—and this is why I support the censure motion under study—is that in its economic policies it is seeking to increase production but fails to introduce bills likely to improve the lot of consumers.

● (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, any and every Canadian is at the same time a producer—mass-manufactured machine producer, service producer, entertainment producer—and a consumer. But he is a producer owing to equipment or to his own labour, whether he holds a degree or not. He is a producer and must be paid accordingly. We agree on that.

But this same citizen is also a consumer. In order to ensure continued economic growth and a progressive economic policy, the government must therefore take into account these two features of the Canadian citizen.

To put it another way, Mr. Speaker, the government must—and this is extremely urgent—propose fiscal and

Alleged Failure to Improve Economy

monetary measures to increase the purchasing power of the Canadian taxpayers.

A tax policy to increase purchasing power, such as a reduction of certain taxes, the withdrawal of the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials, would result in an immediate increase in the rate of development of the construction sector in Canada. This would be a practical policy to speed up economic development. But the government keeps saying, tighten your belts.

Mr. Speaker, some day this government, which has sold out to the high finance community, will have to say to chartered banks and financiers what it tells Canadians, and particularly unskilled labourers.

The right hon. Prime Minister (M. Trudeau) said recently, as reported by the newspaper *Montréal-Matin* in February:

Trudeau blames the labour sector for refusing to tighten its belt.

Not only must workers tighten their belts but they also lack the essentials of life. Meanwhile, the government allows the chartered banks to increase their profits by over 28 per cent in a single year.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly illogical and shows that the government cares only to serve high finance, since its members are slaves to it, instead of trying to serve the people of Canada. If, the government was really willing to serve the interests of the people of Canada, it would right now adopt a fiscal policy aimed at reducing taxes, a monetary policy likely to increase the purchasing power of each Canadian citizen, and thus create a balance between the production forces and the consumption forces.

Mr. Speaker, the government said that inflation had to be fought. Its irresponsibility shows through the fact that on December 24, the Prime Minister said, all of a sudden, after two years of running to catch up with inflation: We are through with inflation; at last, we have licked it.

Mr. Speaker, I am now quoting an article from the *Ottawa Citizen*:

We have licked inflation—Prime Minister Trudeau.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Prime Minister, this was the result of his policy. Now, yesterday, the hon. member for Montréal-Bourassa (Mr. Trudel) said before the Montreal Chamber of Commerce, as reported in the newspaper *La Presse* of March 24:

Inflation will soon be overcome.

Mr. Speaker, one would like to know which of the two is telling the truth. Has inflation stopped galloping, or is it still running? We must know in order to be able to check it. The government should make up its mind.

Mr. Speaker, this is not all. The Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission, Mr. John Young, had this to say: It is not my fault if unemployment has increased, I am not the one responsible for it. Nobody ever said he was, but it was said that absolutely nothing had changed in the economic system.

As we say, white papers and studies will not help solve that problem. Indeed, we saw the result of the B and B